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Assembly employees called back



Al Aslami Al Rasheed

Candidates speak

Bader Nasser Al Aslami, 36, running for Khaldiya calls for writing off housing loans for Kuwaitis or reducing their monthly instalments. He also calls for salary increments for his fellow citizens.

"Salaries don't meet the increasing demands of daily life. Every thing is getting more and more expensive by the day," Aslami said wondering why money spent on foreign loans could not be channelled into more local social support programmes.

"Many people such as divorcees and widows should be getting more than the K.D 200 they are getting now. Also a big number of them refrain from asking for help," said the Kuwaiti Municipality employee who holds a degree in geography.

Aslami believes that the National Council is a good move towards reviving the National Assembly which witnessed some unacceptable practices. "A number of parliament members put their personal interests ahead of those of the public and there-ups between some ministers and parliament members heated up some of the sessions unnecessarily."

Farwaniya candidate Fayez Hamed Al Bouqaili Al Rasheed said that both the National Assembly and the Interim National Council are democratic experiences.

The 50-year-old ex-parliament member (1981), called on voters in his constituency to avoid tribal allegiances and cast their vote to candidates who deserve their trust. His campaign which he says is based on good conscience and integrity has already started in Farwaniya and Fardous districts.

Rasheed, an ex-army officer, believes in the power of constructive discussions that will hopefully permeate the sessions of the new council. "Debates about the country's foreign policy that used to take place in the National Assembly were wrong and should not be repeated in the National Council."

NEWSWATCH

Attempt to delay freedom denied: A former adviser to President Ronald Reagan denied on Tuesday that the Reagan-Bush campaign sought a delay in the release of 52 American hostages in Iran to help win the 1980 election.

Richard V. Allen, who was the senior foreign policy adviser for the 1980 Reagan presidential campaign, testified in the perjury trial of self-proclaimed secret agent, Breznike.

Breznike has been charged with lying to a federal judge about claims he made during a bank fraud trial in Denver in 1988. At the trial, Breznike testified that he had worked for more than 18 years as a CIA contract agent. (UPI)

Algerian alliance: Five centrist opposition parties in Algeria have formed an alliance to support each other during the country's first free elections set for June, party officials said today.

Abderrahmane Adrid, president of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), told Algerian Radio the five parties would "work for the same political, economic and social orientations" and others were welcome to join. (Reuters)

Military recapture village: Fifteen Muslim zealots were buried today at a sleepy Egyptian village which Islamic militants ruled for three days until it was stormed by para-military police.

Security forces fought a three-hour battle on Monday to recapture Mansheit Al Kahk, a village of 30,000 in Al Fayoum oasis southwest of Cairo, from about 100 young fundamentalists. (Reuters)

New Hungarian head of state: Hungary's first post-communist parliament yesterday chose as head of state a writer jailed for six years after the 1956 uprising, crowning the country's peaceful transition to Western-style democracy.

Agap Goncez, 68, was elected speaker and as such interim president of the republic in place of Matyas Szoros of the outgoing ruling Socialist Party, which was founded to succeed the Communist Party last October. (Reuters) Earlier Report Page 4

Kabul lifts emergency

ISLAMABAD, May 2. (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah has ordered that a state of emergency giving special powers to his Soviet-backed government will be lifted on Friday, the official Kabul radio said today.

The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said this would return to Parliament the powers delegated to the cabinet after the withdrawal of Soviet forces in February 1989.

The decree is meant to "pave the way for a speedy implementation of national reconciliation, create better understanding and enable political forces to take maximum participation in the country's affairs," it said.

The announcement was made just two days after a spokesman from the ruling People's Democratic Party said the emergency would end on May 20 as part of a three-stage peace plan.

By Lima Al Khalafawi and Diana Abou Haidar

Forty-one candidates registered yesterday for the Interim National Council elections raising the number of hopefuls to 142.

Among the candidates are ten ex-parliament members: Barak Nasser Al Noon Bou Hgata, Ayed Aloush Al Azem, Hadi Hayel Al Howila Al Ajmi, Mnaazel Jasser Al Inen, Abdul Aziz Fahad Al Massad, Ali Ibrahim Al Marwash, Fayez Hamed Al Bouqaili Al Rasheed, Moutalab Mohamed Al Shalaimi, Hmoud Nasser Al Jahri and Mohamed Mfarid Al Mousalim.

Until yesterday no candidates for Faha have filed their applications while three candidates standing elections for Rowda submitted their papers. Nobody had registered for this constituency in the first two days.

Adnan Ismael Babehani for Qadisiya withdrew from the upcoming elections.

Well informed sources told the Arab Times that the Civil Service Commission has called 300 former National Assembly employees to resume the duties of managing the new council's affairs.

Those employees were loaned to (Continued on Page 11)

Post or pillar?

COLOMBO, May 2. (Kuna): A senior government minister has warned he will quit his office if he fails to flush out errant local employment agents who have been accused of cheating Sri Lankans wishing to go abroad for employment.

Labour and Social Welfare Minister, Gamath Prernachandran, told a meeting held early this week and attended by all local licensed job agencies the activities of these unscrupulous agents was a slur on the government, an official at the ministry said today.

"The minister pointed out that many poor Sri Lankans have been cheated by some job agents," the official said.

Opec talks begin

GENEVA, May 2. (UPI): Opec oil ministers began emergency bargaining today on sharing production cuts as the only way to bolster prices and maintain the 13-member groups' credibility.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh, last to arrive for the crisis talks, was optimistic about an agreement.

"I have had many consultations with other ministers," Aghazadeh told reporters as he entered the conference hotel. "My feeling is that the atmosphere is very positive." (See Page 15)



Still smilin'

Oskar Lafontaine, the West German opposition's candidate for chancellor almost killed in an assassination attempt, left hospital on Wednesday with doctors recommending that he gives campaigning a rest.

Leaders of the Social Democratic Party have said the 46-year-old Saar state premier, stabbed in the throat at a campaign rally last week, will return to the campaign trail to lead the drive to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in December elections.



Century Babe

A former Australian beauty queen with an allergy to 20th century chemicals has given birth to a baby girl in a porcelain bubble she calls home.

Debra Paolitto, 26, was in 1988 diagnosed as having an "environmental illness" which caused her to faint and vomit when she smelt chemical vapours given off by modern materials like plastics.

"It's not too often people suffering from this condition have babies," Christian said by telephone from an undisclosed address. "Most of the sufferers are older people although most of the younger ones seem to be Australian for some reasons." (Reuters wirephoto)



His best shot

Robert Quiro, a Filipino journalist, falls to his knees on Tuesday after he was hit in the head by a truncheon of riot troops battling rock-throwing demonstrators outside the US Clark Air Base north of Manila. The demonstrators were part of a Labour Day rally against US military bases in the country. (Reuters wirephoto)

UK arrests 7 super-gun executives

LONDON, May 2. (AP): Customs officials have arrested seven executives from two British companies under investigation for allegedly selling parts of a "super gun" to Iraq, the Customs and Excise Department said today.

Fourteen executives from the two firms, Sheffield Forgemasters Ltd. and Walter Somers Ltd., were picked up yesterday for questioning.

"Seven men have been arrested, were detained overnight and are continuing to assist with inquiries. The other seven were released, one of whom will return today (Wednesday) to give further assistance," said a customs spokesman.

Eight giant tubes manufactured by Sheffield Forgemasters were seized by British customs officers on April 12 at the port of Middlesbrough and military experts later said they could be used as the barrel of a giant gun.

The Iraqi government and the company have said they were intended for a petrochemical plant.

Experts on Monday determined that steel tubes seized by customs officials near the Bulgarian border were not parts for an alleged Iraqi weapons launcher, Turkish news agencies reported.

Benazir to India We'll talk

ISLAMABAD, May 2. (Reuters): Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said today she was ready to talk with India about the Kashmir question that has raised the spectre of another war between them.

But she repeated Pakistan's view that India was denying the people of Indian Kashmir the right to self-determination.

Benazir told a news conference she was ready at any time to meet Indian Prime Minister Vjshwanath Pratap Singh to discuss the issue which stems from a Muslim secessionist revolt in India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

"In fact we would welcome a dialogue on this issue because we feel the entire normalisation process between India and Pakistan is shadowed by the dispute over Kashmir," she added.

Benazir speaking at a joint news conference with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, denied Pakistan was fuelling the uprising by arming and training militants.

"I would like to categorically repudiate the allegation which is being made that Pakistan is arming, training or giving military assistance to the freedom fighters in Kashmir," she said.

But she said at another point: "Present tension has risen because the people of Kashmir have been denied self-determination. That denial comes from the side of India."

Benazir welcomed, however, her Indian counterpart's offer to match and exceed any Pakistani effort to reduce the threat of a war.

"I would like to state my appreciation of this statement and also like to reciprocate the sentiments," she said.

Kaifu, who has strongly urged both sides to resolve their dispute over Kashmir in a five-nation South Asian tour, emphasised the need for regional stability.

"Japan shall support political stability and economic prosperity in South Asia through dialogue and co-operation," he told reporters.

Marhaba Mubarak

Assad greets Egyptian leader

DAMASCUS, May 2. (Agencies): Hosni Mubarak, in the first visit to Damascus by an Egyptian President in 12 years, met today with President Hafez Assad for talks that included Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria.

Mubarak was greeted by a crowd around Damascus airport waving Syrian and Egyptian flags, some shouting "Ahlan wa Sahlan" Arabic for welcome.

The two leaders, who ended their rift last December, went straight into two hours of talks at the presidential palace, then held a second round of talks later.

Arab diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Assad briefed Mubarak on his recent talks in Moscow with Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, including the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

Israeli officials expect tens of thousands of Soviet Jews to arrive in the next few years. Arabs fear many of them could be settled in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Iraq has made known its willingness to host an Arab summit to discuss the Soviet Jews issue but the parley has been held up by several hitches, especially a bitter feud between Iraq and Syria.

Mubarak would like to help heal the rift between the two countries, ruled by rival wings of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. But there have been few signs that such a reconciliation is imminent.

Still, the Arab diplomatic sources said Mubarak carried to Damascus a "paper" as a blueprint for a rapprochement.

They said it proposed a meeting in Cairo between the Syrian and Iraqi foreign ministers in the presence of Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid, as a starting point for dialogue.

Abdel-Meguid said in Damascus (Continued on Page 2)



Kaifu in Pakistan

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stand for a military guard of honour at Islamabad airport on Wednesday. Kaifu arrived in Pakistan for a two-day official visit. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 13)

Army hit for abuse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 2. (UPI): Soldiers raiding a West Bank village grabbed two Palestinians, smeared their faces with paint and forced them to sing a Hebrew song, an Israeli human rights group said today.

An army spokesman said military police were investigating the case of alleged abuse reported by the Israel information centre, for human rights in the occupied territories.

The Jerusalem-based centre also criticised the army practice of seizing Arab houses for observation points. It monthly reported said troops frequently damaged property, defecated or dumped garbage on roofs and stairways and violated Arab customs concerning modesty of dress.

The military spokesman said the army had moved soldiers to new locations if, for example, proper sanitary facilities were not available.

Also today, troops raiding the Khan Yunis refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip shot dead a 23-year-old masked Palestinian after he ignored orders to halt, an army spokesman said.

The official identified the victim as Abdel-Latif Saqa and said troops had shouted warnings and fired in the air before aiming at Saqa. Troops arrested a Palestinian who accompanied Saqa.

Arab reporters said Saqa and his associate, activists of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, were spraying anti-Israeli slogans on a wall about 4 am (0100 GMT) when they ran into the army patrol. Saqa was shot in the chest, the reporters said.

The human rights centre, known as Baslem in Hebrew, said the number of Palestinians killed by troops has decreased from an average 25 per month in the first two years of the uprising to about 10 per month in the past six months.

I saw Terry ... and I'm angry

WIESBADEN, West Germany, May 2. (Reuters): Freed US hostage Frank Reed said today he had spent long periods with four or five other Western hostages during his 43 months in the hands of kidnappers in Lebanon.

In remarks shouted to journalists from the balcony of a US military hospital in Wiesbaden, he referred to one of them as "Terry" but did not make it clear whether he meant American journalist Terry Anderson or British Terry Waite.

He also referred to hostages Brian Keenan, Tom Sutherland and John McCarty.

"I am very very angry that Anderson, Tom and Terry are not free. I am very very angry that John and Brian are not free. Those are the only people I knew," Reed said.

He did not elaborate on the reference to "Terry" and US officials asked to seek clarification from him afterwards said he was asleep and could not be disturbed.

Reed, 27, who was released in Beirut on Monday and flown to West Germany, is believed to have left behind in Lebanon 15 other Western hostages, six of them American. Anderson, an Associated Press correspondent, was kidnapped in March 1985.

Reed, headmaster of the Lebanese (Continued on Page 2)

US in active diplomacy with Iran

WASHINGTON, May 2. (Reuters): The Bush administration has had diplomatic contacts with Iran through Japanese, Swiss and Algerian intermediaries, the Washington Post reported today.

The Post, quoting administration sources, said messages had been exchanged with Tehran, some as recently as this week. The United States does not have diplomatic relations with Iran, but often has said it is willing to have a dialogue.

It said that in the messages President George Bush had called for the unconditional release of all US hostages held in Lebanon.

He also thanked Iran for its help in releasing two hostages in the past two weeks.

Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said today he would not allow negotiations with the United States. — See Page 8

Court orders to continue curfew in Kashmir; BJP calls for cross-border raids

SRINAGAR, May 2. (Agencies): The supreme court today stayed a lower court order for a termination of curfew in the Kashmir valley, where separatist violence left two people dead and two others injured, police and witnesses reported.

Police said a bystander identified as Makhan Lal was shot dead during a gunbattle between militants and security forces today afternoon in Anantnag, 30 miles (50 km) south of Srinagar, the Jammu and Kashmir state capital.

Another bystander, identified as Poshkar Nath, was injured and taken to a hospital for treatment, police said.

The fighting erupted when militants opened fire on a central reserve police force patrol in the Chini Chowk area

of town. The militants escaped after the exchange of fire. More than 250 people have died since mid-January, when the killing of protesters by security forces ignited widespread dissatisfaction with India's Hindu-dominated

Full Subcontinent coverage — Page 13

government into a popular uprising supported by Kashmir's four million-strong Muslim majority and guided by underground extremist groups.

India has deployed tens of thousands of troops and police to control the insurrection, but has failed to crush the movement, which New Delhi claims has inspired

by the neighbouring Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

India's most powerful Hindu political party called today for attacks on camps inside Pakistan training Kashmiri militants unless Islamabad closed them.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Lal Krishna Advani said India must tell Pakistan to close the camps, said to be the training grounds for militants sent into Indian Kashmir to spread secessionist violence.

"If Pakistan fails to do so, India has every right to strike at these camps under international accepted norms," Advani told a rally of party workers in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Vjshwanath Pratap Singh has called on

but offered no motive or further details.

Police said militants were responsible for the shooting.

(Continued on Page 2)

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'Japanese firms paid off Marcos'

NEW YORK, May 2, (UPI): Several Japanese companies paid off Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos with millions of dollars from Tokyo's war reparations fund, a witness testified yesterday at the racketeering trial of Marcos' widow.

Andres Genito Jr., an officer of the now-bankrupt Ataka Co. and later the Toyo Corp. Trading Companies, testified that Gen Eulogio Balao, chief of the Philippines' reparations commission, collected the payoffs for Marcos in Tokyo.

Balao was appointed to the commission by Marcos shortly after he became president in 1966, the witness said.

The general, a World War II hero and former senator in the Philippines,

sometimes carried "two or three" suitcases under diplomatic seal to Hong Kong where the money was deposited for Ferdinand Marcos, said Genito.

His testimony came at the trial of Mrs. Marcos, who is charged with racketeering, conspiracy, fraud and obstruction of justice in an alleged scheme with her husband to divert more than \$200 million from the Philippines for their personal use.

Genito explained the reparations fund was for "war damages" suffered during the occupation of the Philippines by the Japanese in World War II.

Under questioning by prosecutors, Genito described payments made on contracts won by the Japanese companies to

supply equipment and services to the Philippines.

He described the payments as a form of "insurance" to guarantee "there is no hitch, there's no red tape whatsoever" in completing the projects.

The payoffs collected by the general were "10 to 15 per cent depending on the equipment or goods supplied."

After learning of one such payment, Genito testified he told the general, "this is a large sum of money that we are paying. Is this for you?" And he laughed. "Are you kidding? This goes to president Marcos."

An October 1977 memo to Marcos on "the progress" of a corporation formed

after Balao died showed \$50.6 million was collected for nine projects ranging from a pumping station to a ship-repair facility.

Genito said at one point Marcos asked him for \$1 million and he gave him a cheque for it.

"I don't want you to tell anyone, even your ma'am," Genito testified Marcos warned, explaining "ma'am" was Mrs. Marcos.

When the Japanese war reparations fund ran out, low-cost, long-range loans were arranged by the Japanese for companies in the Philippines and other Southeast Asia countries that had been occupied by Japan, Genito said.

Airlines offer \$1m reward Bounty for terrorist tip

WASHINGTON, May 2, (UPI): The US airline industry offered a reward of up to \$1 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of international air terrorists.

The reward, announced by the Air Transport Association yesterday, will supplement the \$2 million offered by the State Department for the same information.

Law enforcement and airline officials hope the \$3 million in reward money will be enough to foil potential terrorist acts by enticing conspirators to turn in their partners in crime.

"The US airline industry is committed to using every resource at its disposal to make its passengers the safest in the world, and if that means offering a bounty, we'll do it," said Robert J. Aaronson, the associa-

tion's president. \$3 million should be a powerful incentive for people within, or close to, terrorist organisations to reveal plots before they are hatched," Aaronson said.

Particularly, it is hoped the additional reward money will encourage someone to come forward with information about the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The flight suffered a midair explosion over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 270 passengers and crew members.

Capt. Bruce Smith, a Pan Am pilot whose wife, Ingrid, was aboard the doomed flight, said the additional reward is the result of efforts by families of the victims of the disaster to bring those responsible to justice.

"This reward is proof that relatives are getting more than sympathy from America," Smith

said. "The reward is a milestone, but it's not the end of the road." Families of Pan Am 103/Lockerbie, an organisation of 160 families of the bombing's victims, supported the reward and members are hopeful it will lead to a breakthrough in the case.

There have been no arrests in connection with the bombing, said William Baker.

Aaronson said the association's members, the nation's major airlines, are ready "write the cheques" when the State Department receives information determined instrumental in terrorist convictions.

Morris Busby, the State Department's counter-terrorism ambassador, said some of the department's \$2 million in reward money already has been distributed for information obtained.

Mugger walks away with \$500m in London

LONDON, May 2, (Reuters): A mugger walked away with almost \$300 million (\$500 million) in negotiable securities today after holding up a messenger at knifepoint on a busy London street.

But the Bank of England said his crime may never pay. It immediately warned financial institutions to be on their guard against attempts to cash in the certificates, whose numbers are registered.

The messenger for Sheppard's Money Brokers was robbed of certificates of deposit worth £121.9 million (\$200 million) and treasury bills worth £170 million (\$280 million).

A Bank of England spokesman said that while the bearer certificates were negotiable, it would be difficult to cash them as the holder would "have to demonstrate that he has good title to the documents."



Royal laughter

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands laughing at a joke while posing for photographers as West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl smiles during the opening of the Hanover Trade Fair inside the pavilion of the Netherlands (Reuters wirephoto)

Egypt, Syria

(Continued from Page 1)

that "we expect good results" from the presidential summit, "not only for Egypt and Syria but also for all the Arab countries and for peace and stability in the area."

"We're extremely happy with this visit and today's talks are for the benefit of the entire Arab nation," said Assad's spokesman, Jibril Khourieh.

Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat said in the United Arab Emirates today that efforts were under way to reconcile Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

On the Soviet Jews, the Soviet Ambassador to Syria, Alexander Zolov, told reporters yesterday that the emigration was "humanitarian" issue and that Soviet Jews were free to travel.

He said he thought many would choose to go to countries other than Israel.

Syria is the most implacable enemy of the Jewish state and Assad has

vowed to continue building up his forces until he reaches "strategic parity" with Israel so that the Arab world can negotiate from a position of strength.

Relations between Egypt and Syria were broken shortly after then-President Anwar Sadat's trip to Jerusalem in November 1977, seeking peace with the Jewish state.

Most other Arab states cut relations with Cairo after Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in March 1979.

But a 1987 Arab League summit gave member nations the go-ahead to renew ties.

A gradual warming in relations began more than two years ago when Assad and Mubarak met for the first time, in Kuwait. But relations remained so strained that Assad's aides denied the session occurred.

Syria held out against resuming full relations until last December. A temporary embassy has been set up in Damascus' Sheraton hotel until a suitable building can be prepared.

Hostages

(Continued from Page 1)

International School when he was abducted on Sept. 9, 1986, described his fellow hostages as good men and said he was embarrassed to have been freed before them.

"I have been with John and Brian since last October. I saw Tom a year ago last February. I spent two years with Tom and Terry. I have not seen Tom and Terry in a while and I don't know where they are. I spent almost three years either with John and Brian or having them somewhere in the house with me."

Reed said McCarthy and Keenan were alive and well.

Dressed in a light blue bathrobe and bare-legged, he posed for photographers for the first time since arriving in Wiesbaden for medical checks and debriefing by US State Department anti-terrorism experts.

The shaggy beard grown in captivity had been shaved off earlier in the day and officials said Reed had spent 45 minutes sitting in the sun in an attempt to regain his suntan.

His Syrian-born wife Fahima (Fifi), 39, and nine-year-old son Tarek stood beside him. The three hugged each other occasionally and Reed ruffled Tarek's hair.

Asked if he was angry with the US government for not having secured his release sooner, Reed replied: "I thought I was, but I don't think I am now. It seems to me perhaps they're

on the right track of getting people out."

Reed said he might travel home to Massachusetts on Friday. "I feel good. I'm a little tired because I haven't got any living muscle," he added.

He did not respond when asked if he had a message for President George Bush, as his kidnappers announced when they freed him. "If he's got a message, he has kept it to himself," one US official said.

In a joking reference to the Wiesbaden hospital that has been the first stop for US hostages held in the Middle East for around 10 years, Reed said: "I'd like to stay another week or two but they want me out of here on Friday. Actually, it's not very good here. I don't recommend it a bit."

US officials who have talked to Reed in the last few days said he was lucid and alert.

Reed's wife said the couple would seek professional counselling to help them to cope with the trauma of the kidnapping and their long separation and to re-adjust to life together.

Asked what would be the first thing he would do when he returns to the United States, Reed smiled and replied: "Hill." "I'd like to eat a big Maine lobster, about three pounds (1.3 kg)," he added.

He said he had a lot of news to catch up on. "I'm being drowned in information."

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

Indians to prepare for war, adding that India did not seek a military conflict, but would protect its interests.

He told visiting Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu that India would take two steps for every step that Pakistan took to ensure peace in the region.

Singh's minority government, which came to power in last November's elections, depends on support from the BJP and leftist parties for its survival.

Quoting a New York Times report, Advani said there were as many as 50 camps inside Pakistan training and arming militants fighting for a Kashmir free of Indian rule.

India said today it had rejected a Pakistani proposal that neutral observers investigate charges that Islamabad backs Muslim Kashmiris fighting New Delhi.

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told Parliament he had scored what he called "the patently propagandistic suggestion" by his Pakistani counterpart, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan during talks in New York on April 25.

In New Delhi, the supreme court today stayed an April 24 Jammu and Kashmir state high court order that curfew in the Kashmir valley be terminated.

The central government appealed the lower court decision, contending that curfew was essential to help security forces restore peace and order.

The court granted the stay after Jammu and Kashmir advocate General V.K. Gupta promised the court that authorities would relax curfew as and when the situation permitted.

Meanwhile, authorities in Srinagar relaxed curfew from 9 am to 6 pm and temporarily suspended house-to-house searches for suspected militants.

Last night, security forces stepped up their searches in 12 localities of Srinagar, seizing 50 suspects, while in New Delhi authorities arrested Shafaq Ahmed, a leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front.

Amud Kanth, crime branch chief of the New Delhi police department, said Ahmad was wanted in connection with several killings and kidnappings in the Kashmir valley.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

STARKE, Florida: Four US prisoners say breathing air filled with cigarette smoke is "cruel and unusual punishment" and have filed lawsuit for smoke-free cells in county jails.

The inmates \$1.4 million lawsuit, filed in US district court against seven Florida county sheriffs, seek smoke-free cells in county jails where they were previously held. The four now share a dormitory at Lawley correctional institution near Starke.

One of the inmates, Scott L. Sullivan, who has never been a cigarette smoker, claims he suffers from hypertension from breathing second-hand smoke in the Palm Beach county jail. Another, Stewart Strickland, says he contracted asthma in 1988 from smoke in the air in a Polk County jail. (Reuters)

LESPARRE, France: Hundreds of hunters defying European Community regulations on hunting turtle doves set up roadblocks and clashed with a bird conservationist organisation leader and four European members of Parliament Tuesday, witnesses said.

The trouble began when about 200 hunters used tractors and trailers to block off roads leading to a hunting zone near Lesparre in the northern medoc region of western France so that they could chase the birds in peace.

About 200 angry hunters gathered at one of the roadblocks at the town of Souillac when a group of ecologist protestors arrived led by Alain Bougrain-Dubourg, president of the League for the Protection of Birds. (UPI)



Work Gabor work

A judge severely rebuked actress Zsa Zsa Gabor (above) on Tuesday as he ordered her to serve another 60 hours of community service for breach of probation.

Judge Charles Rubin told Gabor she had failed to complete the community work he had ordered her to do last October and that she had used her celebrity status to "blind" the director of a homeless shelter and led her down a "primrose path".

Gabor was found guilty in October of assaulting police officer Paul Kramer after he stopped her in Beverly Hills in her Rolls-Royce for a traffic violation. Kramer alleged Gabor had slapped him and swore at him.

Rubin initially sentenced her to 120 hours of community service and three days in jail, and fined her \$12,000. The jail sentence and fine are under appeal.

During Tuesday's hearing, Vera Davis, the executive director of a homeless shelter in the Oceanside Los Angeles suburb of Venice,

Man held Harrison threatened

LONDON, May 2 (AP): Police today arrested a man in connection with threatening letters sent to former Beatle George Harrison. Thames Valley police said.

Harrison, 47, received the letters at his mansion in Friar park near Henley 35 miles (56 kilometres) west of central London where he lives with his wife Olivia, 42, and their 12-year-old son, Dhani.

Police said officers went to a south London address today to detain the man after an examination of the letters' postmarks found they were all sent from that area.

"We have investigated the allegations and we have traced the person who sent the letters," said a police spokesman, who was not identified in keeping with British custom. "Papers will be submitted for consideration for prosecution. The inquiry has been completed."

The Crown prosecution service is reviewing the case, police said, but no charges have been filed.

NEW YORK: One of every five students of Italian descent drops out of city schools, and some specialists are placing at least partial blame on the stereotypes of Italians generated by popular culture, a report said.

A report by the John D. Calandra Italian-American institute of the city university of New York said the extent of the Italian-American dropout problem has not been recognized by city officials.

The study, the first to focus on Italian-Americans, was presented Monday at a Cuny conference, it estimated 20 per cent of the city's 140,000 Italian-American students fail to complete high school.

Italian-Americans make up about 15 per cent of the school system. (UPI)

STONINGTON, Connecticut: Internationally famed singer Sergio Franchi died Tuesday at his estate on Long Island Sound following a bout with cancer, his family said.

Franchi's age was not disclosed, but records indicated he was 57. Franchi, a native of Italy who made his US debut at New York's Carnegie Hall in 1962, had appeared on stage, screen and in films and had a long recording career with RCA, United Artists and Gold Records.

A frequent guest on the Ed Sullivan television show, Franchi performed in concert halls across the country and was a frequent headliner on the Las Vegas Club Circuit. (UPI)

ELIZABETH, New Jersey: Former Sunday school teacher John List, convicted of murdering five members of his family "executive-style" 19 years ago, was sentenced to five consecutive life terms on Tuesday as spectators ringing the courthouse cheered.

List, 64, stood silently as the court called him a "cold, calculating killer who felt he was judge, jury and executioner."

The former accountant, who had eluded authorities for 19 years, was arrested after his case was featured as an unsolved crime on the television programme. An artist had made a plaster cast of his head, ageing it to suggest what he would look like today. (Reuters)



Linda Kozlowski

American actress Linda Kozlowski who is to marry Australian movie star Paul Hogan on May 5, pictured in the Bryan Bay shopping centre on May 1. Kozlowski met Hogan when they co-starred in the hit movie *Crocodile Dundee*. (Reuters wirephoto)

Charged with adultery

ASHLAND, Wisconsin, May 2 (Reuters): A housewife in this small northern US port city may be brought to trial on charges of violating a dusty 19th century adultery law that civil libertarians are trying to kill.

Donna Carroll, 28, branded with a modern-day version of Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter," is expected to plead innocent at an arraignment in two weeks.

Her case, should it come to trial, would be unprecedented in modern-day America.

The charge of adultery — dormant in the two dozen states where it still carries penalties as high as Maryland's \$10 fine — triggered a wave of sympathy for Carroll among many people in this conservative, heavily Roman Catholic region.

"If we were going to put everyone in jail who committed adultery, it would be half the county," a clerk working in the Bayfield County government said.

Dispatcher wins harassment suit

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich., May 2 (UPI): A jury awarded \$150,000 to a police dispatcher for years of sexual harassment by a sergeant who repeatedly unhooked her brassiere and once pulled down her blouse so a photographer could take a picture of her breast.

Sydney Brauer, 38, of Bruce township, said the harassment by Sgt Robert White began in 1981 with unwanted neck massages, which escalated into tickling and repeated unhooking of her bra.

White once pulled down her blouse and bra so another officer could photograph her exposed breast. Brauer testified during a month-long trial.

On Monday, the Macomb County circuit court jury awarded Brauer \$90,000 from White for harassment and intentional infliction of emotional distress, \$30,000 from the village of Romeo for not stopping distress, and \$30,000 from retired Chief Paul Uerling for retaliating against Brauer when she filed the 1987 complaint by criticising her work.

The jury also awarded \$11,000 to Anne Graber, 25, a former dispatcher who also accused White of sexual harassment.

According to court documents, all of the incidents involving Brauer took place at police headquarters in Romeo, a northern Macomb County village of 3,400 people.

Mary Thompson, a local reporter covering the case, said: "There's a lot of sympathy for Mrs Carroll, especially since Mr Carroll admitted to committing adultery himself."

Mrs Carroll admitted to having an affair with a truck driver her husband had once befriended. Her ex-husband also admitted,

during child custody hearing last year, to several sexual affairs.

The case — which recalls Hawthorne's novel in which the main character is required to wear the adulterer's letter 'A' on her breast for bearing an illegitimate child — has attracted national media attention to this quiet corner of Wisconsin.

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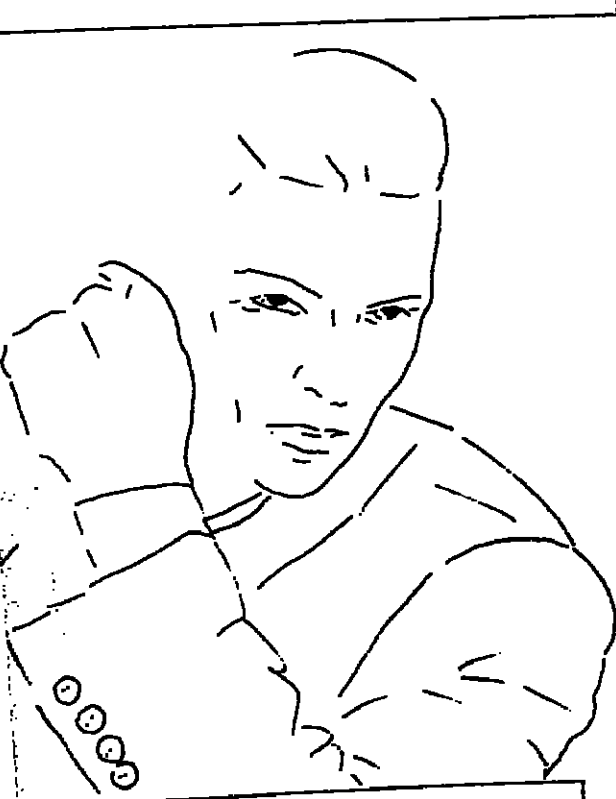
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World's biggest May Day turnout in Cuba

Violence flares in Nicaragua, Colombia

HAVANA, May 2. (Agencies): Three million people turned out for marches in Cuba yesterday as workers celebrated May Day with parades and rallies throughout much of Latin America.

Violence flared briefly during marches in Managua and Bogota. Salvadoreans marched for an end to 10 years of civil war, and Panamanians condemned December's US invasion. Workers in Honduras and Venezuela used May Day to protest austerity measures and price increases.

In contrast to more subdued parades in East European countries that have moved away from communism, Cuba's well-organised celebra-

tion of May Day was the most spectacular in the Western hemisphere and among the biggest in the world.

The Cuban government billed the outpouring of people as a show of support for President Fidel Castro and the Caribbean island's socialist system.

Leftist Sandinistas and backers of Nicaragua's new government hurled stones at each other when their separate May Day marches met briefly on the streets on Managua, witnesses said. At least two people were injured, but there were no arrests, pro-government radio corporation said.



'March of the no'

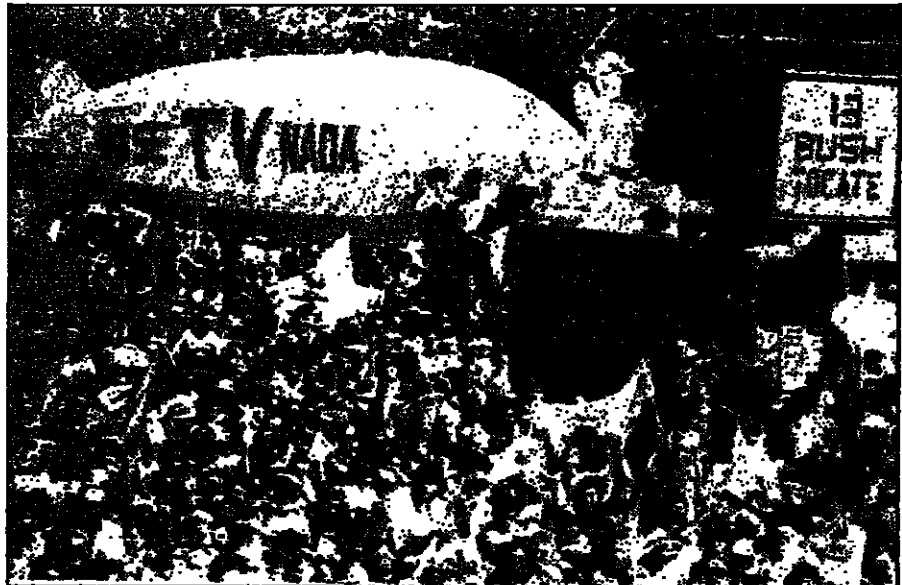
More than 50,000 anti-government demonstrators flooded into the downtown Plaza del Mayo Tuesday to denounce the pro-business policies of President Carlos Menem.

The so-called 'March of the no', opposed to Menem's policies of privatising state companies and curbing state spending, was also backed by human rights groups denouncing government pardons and amnesties to military officers accused of killing and torturing prisoners during military rule in the 1970s.

Police presence was sparse as tens of thousands of demonstrators, many bused into the city from suburbs, waving red flags and portraits of the late revolutionary Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, congregated in front of the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace on the plaza.

Banners and placards said 'no' or 'no to the pardon' 'no to wages of hunger' and carried the initials of far-left political parties.

The demonstrators appeared to be a mixed group, many well-dressed in sport clothing and others accompanied by their wives and children. Many appeared to be youths from slums, wearing worn out and dirty clothing while drinking cheap wine from carton containers. (Reuters wirephoto)



Thousands of Cubans march through downtown Havana on May Day. Three million workers celebrated May Day across Cuba with massive marches billed by the government as a show of support for President Fidel Castro. The sign on the balloon is a pun on the fact that TV Marti from the United States has been widely jammed inside Cuba. (Reuters wirephoto)



An old peasant farmer observes May 1 banners with the faces of several of the 6 Jesuits and two women employees murdered by the military on Nov 16, 1989, after having participated in the traditional International Workers' Day march in which some 40,000 Salvadoreans took part. (Reuters wirephoto)

The violence broke out as Sandinista supporters headed home from an opposition rally and came across a march of about 800 workers belonging to the Nicaraguan Workers Centre (CTN), which backs President Violeta Chamorro's new government.

In El Salvador, tens of thousands of workers marched through the capital San Salvador in the biggest May Day march in five years. The demonstrators, representing trade unions, opposition political parties and grassroots organisations, chanted slogans in favour of a negotiated end to the civil war, which has claimed some 75,000 lives.

Bogota police fired tear gas at some 4,000 workers in the Colombian capital after some marchers, described by police as "anarchist elements," threw firecrackers towards them, police and witnesses said. Two people suffered minor injuries.

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, some 20,000 public workers used a march to protest against a rigid economic austerity plan that they say threatens public sector jobs.

Thousands of Venezuelan workers marched peacefully through the capital Caracas to celebrate International Labour Day and protest a proposed gasoline price increase.

Some 3,000 marching Panamanian workers condemned the US invasion that toppled strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega and called for a day of mourning on the anniversary of the attack.

In Argentina, tens of thousands of red flag-waving leftists shouted their opposition to President Carlos Menem's Peronist administration during a rally. "No to privatisations, no to hunger wages," changed the crowd, estimated at 150,000 people by organising Marxist parties and at 45,000 by independent media.

Clashes

Chileans celebrated their first May Day in democracy after 16-1/2 years of military rule under General Augusto Pinochet. Tens of thousands crowded into a Santiago park for speeches by union leaders and new President Patricio Aylwin.

Aylwin's government and the unions are close to an agreement providing an increase in monthly salaries from \$60 to \$80 starting in June.

Manuel Bustos, leader of the Central Workers' Union who shared the podium with Aylwin at the rally, said the agreement "is not what we wished for, but it is a first step." The union has 300,000 members among a 4.1 million-strong workforce.

As their counterparts in Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina and other countries, Nicaraguan workers fear austerity programme that include privatisation of state companies, layoffs, cuts in social expenditure and prices determined by market forces.

In a peaceful march in Caracas also attended by President Carlos Andres Perez, Venezuelan workers supported a labour bill reducing the work week from 48 to 44 hours and providing a 15 per cent increase in year end bonuses. The Venezuelan Workers Confederation, the country's only labour union, rejected an imminent hike in gas prices.

In Mexico City, riot police clashed with opposition labour unions during a May Day March, but allowed them to continue to Mexico City's main plaza that had just been vacated by pro-government labour groups.

More than 50 people were injured, including one policeman, three news photographers and a demonstrator who required hospitalisation, the independent news agency excelsior reported.

Several hundred riot police of horseback and on foot held up the opposition union demonstration for hours, apparently to give the pro-government labour groups time to clear the Zocalo Plaza after their annual rally.

Once they arrived at the Zocalo, some opposition marchers scrambled up the front of ornate colonial buildings cut down a dozen huge pro-government banners and set them afire as a crowd estimated at 20,000 roared its approval.

The banners had praised the economic programme of president Carlos Salinas de Gortari. In Uruguay, some 25,000 people attended a rally in Montevideo under the banner "for social justice," with hundreds attending demonstrations in other 36 cities.

Union leaders criticised the 2-month-old government of President Luis Alberto Lacalle for its austerity programmes including income taxes and privatisation of state companies.

In Bolivia, more than 25,000 people marched in La Paz to the sound of huge fireworks and listened to Victor Lopez, leader of the Bolivian Workers Federation.

Jesuits trial could begin

SAN SALVADOR, May 2. (Reuters): El Salvador's government, facing deep cuts in US military aid, said yesterday its much-criticised probe into the murder of six priests could lead to a trial within 90 days.

"President (Alfredo) Cristiani hopes that in a period of 90 days the case can be brought to trial," government spokesman Mauricio Sandoval told Reuters.

US Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday that US aid to El Salvador will be affected by the way the rightist Cristiani government handles the probe.

Baker said a report issued on Monday by a House of Representatives task force, saying the investigation had been at a standstill since January, had raised substantial questions about the probe's status.

Sandoval said the report could not claim to give a definitive verdict on the investigation, as it had not yet finished.

The Salvadorean armed forces meanwhile said cutting military aid would strengthen the hand of leftist rebels in the country's 10-year-old civil war, which has cost some 75,000 lives.

Falklands top priority

Menem assures Parliament

BUENOS AIRES, May 2. (Reuters): President Carlos Menem yesterday assured Parliament that the Argentine government was giving top priority to his country's claim over the British-held Falklands and other South Atlantic islands.

"Our sovereign rights over the Malvinas (Falklands), South Georgia and south Sandwich Islands, are the main priority, the most important cause of our foreign policy," he said in a speech to Congress.

To the applause of legislators he held the recent renewal of diplomatic links with Britain, severed since Argentina's brief invasion of the islands in 1982, would enable an eventual peaceful solution to the territorial dispute.

"Our rights remain intact, in

reserve until the day when both governments can begin the search of a lasting solution to the matter," he added.

The re-establishment of links with Britain in February had been criticised by some opposition politicians and sectors of the armed forces as weakening Argentina's negotiating position over its claim.

Summing up his 10 months in office, Menem said despite the current economic crisis Argentina was on the right path.

"...Our country was in flames. And we are still suffering an Argentina with many ashes, many painful wounds and many smouldering embers," said Menem, who when he took office in July described the crisis as the worst in Argentine history.

With inflation now under con-

trol it was possible to hope structural changes would stimulate the private sector and accelerate growth to a level which would give a real increase in per capita income, he said.

The Argentine economy had not grown in the past 14 years and salaries were at half the level of a decade ago, Menem added. Of the country's 12.2 million labour force, 4.5 million were either unemployed or underemployed.

In response to critics of government plans to privatise public companies and reduce the state's role in the economy as tantamount to auctioning off the state, Menem said the state should concentrate on providing education, health care, security, justice and government.



Child gets tear-gassed

Bystanders assist a child injured by tear-gas fired by police to disperse a crowd of some 4,000 people during a May 1 workers' rally in Bogotá. (Reuters wirephoto)

Torrijos remains stolen Formal complaint filed

PANAMA CITY, May 2. (AP): The remains of the late strongman Gen Omar Torrijos were stolen yesterday from the crypt of a Roman Catholic church, a police chief said.

Relatives of Torrijos reported to police they believed the remains were stolen from the Corazon de Maria national sanctuary in the capital city yesterday afternoon, judicial police director Leslie Loaiza said.

A witness gave police descriptions of two sus-

pects, Loaiza said in an interview with KW-Radio Continente. He refused to give details other than to repeat, "we have their descriptions."

The strongman's eldest son, Martin Torrijos, and Martin's brother-in-law, Marcelino Jaen, filed a formal complaint with judicial authorities, Loaiza said.

Torrijos seized power in an October 1968 coup and ruled Panama as a military strongman until his death in a plane crash in July 1979.

Mohawk unrest leaves 2 dead

CORNWALL, Ontario, May 2. (Reuters): Police from the United States and Canada moved on to a Mohawk Indian reservation late yesterday after a tribal feud over gambling erupted into a nine-hour gun battle killing two men.

"New York state police entered the reserve in an effort to protect the lives on the reserve," said New York police captain Richard Garratt.

"There is a police action under way," said Peter West, a spokesman for police in the Canadian province of Ontario.

Quebec police also entered the reserve to restore order and to investigate the deaths of the two Mohawks killed in yesterday's battle in which thousands of rounds of semi-automatic gunfire were exchanged.

It was the second armed clash in a week between the Warrior Society — young Mohawks who support the six casinos on the American side of the 14,000-acre (5,600 hectare) reservation — and the tribal factions that oppose them.

Police from New York state, Ontario and Quebec would not disclose how many officers were involved on the reservation of 9,500 Indians that straddles the border near Massena, New York.

Canadian television reported that up to 500 police were involved. It also said sporadic gunfire could still be heard on the reservation and that a house had been bombed in apparent retaliation for the deaths.

Earlier yesterday, elected tribal chief Harold Tarbell had pleaded with New York governor Mario Cuomo to call off the National Guard.

"We don't know what else to do," Tarbell said, "capitulation and living in terror is too high a price."

The police action follows days of protest from the Canadian government, which has been calling for intervention by the New York state police. The police have repeatedly called for the Mohawks to resolve the dispute among themselves.

The reservation has been turned into a virtual war zone over the casinos.

After months of intermittent confrontation, a gun battle erupted last Thursday when warrior society members armed with assault rifles overran a series of roadblocks set up by other Mohawks in an effort to close the casinos.

The casinos draw thousands of non-Indian visitors and make millions of dollars in profits. They have been declared illegal by the federal government.

Senate approves Bush aid requests

WASHINGTON, May 2. (UPI): The Senate passed a long-awaited bill yesterday that grants nearly all of President George Bush's emergency aid request for Nicaragua and Panama but the measure still faces a presidential veto threat because of a provision on abortion.

The \$720 million for the new US-backed governments in Central America is the centre piece of legislation that would spend about \$2.3 billion for both foreign and domestic programmes during the fiscal year ending Sept 30.

The measure was adopted by a voice vote. Like one passed last month by the House, it authorises the full \$300 million sought by Bush for Nicaragua and \$420 million of the \$300 million the president wanted for Panama.

But unlike the House, the Senate included an amendment allowing the district of Columbia to use its tax money for abortions — a provision that caused Bush to veto the district's regular appropriations bill last year.

White House officials say the aid in the spending bills is acceptable but that Bush will veto the legislation if the House and Senate agree to include the abortion language during compromise talks. White House press secretary Martin Fitzwater yesterday called Bush's veto threat "irrevocable."

With Panamanian President Guillermo Endara in town seeking help from the United States, Bush said Monday it was "an embarrassment" that it was taking Congress so long to act on the supplemental spending bill.

Endara, speaking at the National Press Club, said it is vital that Panama receive aid as soon as possible, but he added, "Panamanians understand that delay is part of the price you pay for democracy."

He said his country was "very optimistic" the \$420 million one-time aid package would eventually be approved.

The money, he said, would partly go to clear up back debts owed by Panama to international financial institutions, such as the World Bank. In the future, Panama would go to these lending institutions rather than the United States for any financial help.



Colombian presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro, of the M-19 guerrilla movement, died after being shot aboard a commercial aircraft on April 26. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kingpin blamed

BOGOTA, May 2. (UPI): Witnesses have linked cocaine kingpin and Medellín cartel leader Pablo Escobar to the murder of a presidential candidate aboard a commercial airliner, the newspaper El Tiempo reported yesterday.

Statements by persons detained for the assassination last week of candidate Carlos Pizarro point to a "man of confidence" of Escobar as contracting the gunman who shot the former M-19 guerrilla commander, El Tiempo said.

Those detained in the case told police the Escobar ally, a man identified only as "Tyson," contacted and paid Gerardo Gutierrez Uribe for the murder, the newspaper said.

citing police intelligence sources who were not named.

The gunman was killed immediately by bodyguards after he shot Pizarro 13 times with a mini-Ingram submachine gun smuggled aboard an Avianca airliner bound from Bogotá to the northern coastal city of Barranquilla.

Escobar in a letter sent to the head of the judicial police, Col Oscar Pelaez, and to the Colombian news media Monday appeared to try to refute charges he was involved in the Pizarro murder. He said he was friends with most M-19 leaders and had at one time hidden two guerrilla leaders on one of his ranches.

12 per cent abortions Twelve-year-olds

CARACAS, May 2. (Reuters): Some 12 per cent of abortions for single women in Venezuela are performed on 12-year-old girls, Dr Jose Gabriel Cervello, head of an Adolescent Maternity Ward, said yesterday.

The state news agency Venpres quoted Cervello as saying parents are to blame for the high rates of adolescent pregnancy and abortion because they do not provide proper sex education for their children.

The Venezuelan Health Ministry runs a family planning programme, but it is available only to women 18 years and older, said Cervello, who heads the Adolescent Maternity Ward at a southwest Caracas hospital.

FMLN rebels attack key points in San Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, May 2. (AP): Leftist rebels attacked government soldiers in the capital yesterday on the eve of talks aimed at ending the war.

Automatic weapons fire and explosions ripped through several neighbourhoods on the west and north sides of the city, including the wealthy Escalon district that was the scene of fighting during an offensive by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front rebels last November.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. The rebels dynamited five high voltage utility towers near the city of Chalatenango, leaving at least half of San Salvador without electricity, the

privately owned radio station YSKL reported.

Rebels also attacked a plant belonging to the state power company north of the city, the radio station reported, but said it had no details.

The fighting began around 10 pm (0400 GMT) and continued sporadically into the pre-dawn hours today. Military helicopters could be heard buzzing overhead.

Guerrillas and government soldiers clashed near the Sheraton hotel in Escalon and the firefight spilled over into the Tasumal neighbourhood, residents said. The guerrillas attacked a civil defence post on the south-side neighbourhood of

Costa Rica and the national elections board building in Escalon, according to witnesses.

They also sprayed a police academy on the outskirts of the capital with gunfire.

The fighting erupted hours before President Alfredo Cristiani's conservative government and the FMLN guerrillas were to hold indirect preliminary talks to end the war.

A representative of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was due to arrive in El Salvador today to act as a go-between in setting up an agenda and arranging other details for the peace talks to begin.

JFK Jr flunks again in exam

NEW YORK, May 2 (Reuters): "The hunk flunks," declared the New York Post. "The hunk flunks... again," said the Daily News. "The hunk who flunked," said Newsday.

But the newspapers didn't have the same headline writer. They were simply talking about the sexiest man alive flunking the New York state bar exam for a second time.

Who is the sexiest man alive? Why, John F. Kennedy Jr. of course. People magazine dubbed him that last September.

The Entertainment magazine said that the son of the slain president and sometime escort of Madonna and Daryl Hannah has "his mother's dark eyes and his father's striking body."

Under state rules, Kennedy can try to pass the bar exam as many times as he wants.

But Kennedy, 29, is a prosecutor with the Manhattan district attorney's office and the office has its own rule — pass the exam in three tries or resign.

Kennedy flunked the 12-1/2 hour, two-day test when he took it last July. He flunked it again when he took it in February.

"It clearly not a major legal genius," said the man who as a child is remembered standing at attention as his father's funeral procession passed by.

The result prompted a feeding frenzy on the part of New York's tabloids, in a three-way battle for circulation.

Each put the story on the front page with a picture of Kennedy and made it their lead item. The August New York Times gave the story only two paragraphs and never used the word "hunk" once.

Newsday won the fight for most revealing picture, showing Kennedy barechested with a stag's tooth chain around his neck.

Kennedy, who introduced his uncle, Senator Edward Kennedy, at the 1988 Democratic convention, graduated from New York University law school last May.

He was one of 65 recruits hired by Manhattan district attorney Robert Morgenthau. So far, 58 of them have passed the bar, but Morgenthau expressed confidence in Kennedy.

Kennedy is not the first of his clan to fail the test. A cousin, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. failed it in 1983 while working for the Manhattan district attorney's office. However, he was admitted to the New York bar two years later.



Phantom of the Opera

Robert Guillaume, right, acknowledges the crowd's ovation after his first performance in the lead role of the musical *Phantom of the Opera* on May 1. Guillaume replaced Michael Crawford, who played the phantom for over four years. (Reuters wirephoto)

MEDICAL FILE

Osteoporosis drug: An experimental drug has greatly reduced the number of new spinal fractures and reduced bone loss in osteoporosis patients, a preliminary study released on Wednesday said.

The three-year study by Danish researchers raised the hope that the drug could reverse or even prevent the widespread and debilitating bone disorder.

The researchers analysed the effect of the drug etidronate, a non-hormonal drug taken orally that reduces bone loss, and calcium in 66 women with postmenopausal osteoporosis.

The study, published in the current issue of the New England journal of medicine, was supported by Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals of Norwich, New York, which makes the drug. (Reuters)

Public smoking banned: The haze cleared from buses and movie theatres Tuesday as the government cracked down on smoking. Authorities outlawed smoking in cinemas and buses, and ordered segregated smoking areas to be set up in government buildings, trains, schools, libraries, hospitals, airports, supermarkets, restaurants and art galleries.

Health inspectors will make spot checks throughout the country, with powers to fine offenders up to 100 Irish pounds (\$160). Owners or managers failing to enforce the ban can be fined up to 500 Irish pounds (\$800).

Restaurants were angered that the ban does not apply to pubs or bars.

"There seems to be two laws," said Henry O'Neill, head of the Restaurant Owners Association. "Publicans have gone into food in a big way and they are not restricted. It is unfair and it increases an unfair competition."

Hiccups treatment: Medical researchers in Britain have finally come up with two new treatments for one of the most annoying and annoying complaints, hiccups, it was reported in London Wednesday. But still neither treatment, it seems, will provide a convenient replacement for ancient and humble remedies such as drinking water from the wrong side of a glass or holding the breath.

The treatments, both sophisticated drugs, are aimed at people for whom hiccups are more than a social embarrassment, according to the specialised publication here, drug and therapeutics bulletin. (Kuna)

Bid to kidnap Seagram heir foiled

MONTREAL, May 2 (Reuters): Police said yesterday they had foiled a plot to kidnap Stephen Bronfman, one of the heirs to the Seagram distilling fortune.

The police said they had foiled the plans while they were investigating a homicide. The would-be kidnappers were planning to trap and abduct Bronfman by staging a car accident somewhere in the Montreal region, Lieutenant detective Allen Trepanier said.

Montreal police arrested Anton Anghel, 42, on Monday night and are searching for his alleged accomplice in the plot to kidnap the 26-year-old Bronfman. A third man, currently serving time for a murder conviction, will also be charged, police said.

"To the best of my knowledge, it was not a political crime," Trepanier said, referring to kidnappers in Quebec in the 1970s by separatist extremists.

He said he did not know how much ransom the alleged

kidnappers were planning to demand, nor did he know the whereabouts of the younger Bronfman. Officials at the Seagram Co. Ltd. headquarters in Montreal would not comment on the case.

About 15 years ago, the eldest son of Seagram chairman Edgar Bronfman was reported kidnapped. Two men were arrested and convicted of extortion, but they were acquitted of kidnapping charges after the defence alleged that Sam Bronfman helped to arrange his own kidnapping.

Sam Bronfman, who runs the company's wine business today, has denied any involvement in that affair.

Stephen Bronfman is the son of Charles Bronfman, co-chairman of Seagram and brother of Edgar Sr.

"To the best of my knowledge, Stephen Bronfman has nothing to do with these individuals," said Trepanier, referring to the accused in the current case.

French leader warns of lawlessness

PARIS, May 2 (Reuters): French extreme right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen told thousands of supporters at a Paris rally yesterday that an anti-racism bill now before Parliament could lead to lawlessness.

Le Pen, leader of the National Front, attracted 12,000 supporters for 'Joan of Arc Day', a celebration of France's national heroine organised by his party to compete with traditional May Day workers' parades.

He urged the National Assembly not to

adopt a communist-backed law which would strip civil rights from people convicted of fomenting racism.

"Don't they see, those who govern us, that they will be responsible if people infuriated by this injustice act outside the law?" He told a crowd of flag-waving supporters ranging from leather-jacketed skinheads to middle-aged couples.

"While they're giving the vote to foreigners they'll be taking it away from patriots," Le Pen said. "Let us organise our rank and file in the defence of French

liberties."

Le Pen, standing in front of a huge painting of Joan of Arc, gave a clenched-fist salute as people representing different regions of France filed past shouting: "Le Pen for president."

"Racism in France today means patriotism," he told the crowd after their march to the Palais Royal Square near the Louvre Museum and the Tuileries Gardens.

Bruno Megret, the National Front's third-ranking leader, told French telev-

ision the anti-racism bill was inspired by hatred of his party.

"The idea is simple. Those who resist immigration, including the National Front, will simply be branded racists, depriving them of civil rights will mean they can't run for election," he said.

Le Pen, a former paratrooper who fought in the Algerian war, was once scorned by the political establishment but has managed to whip up support on the issue of Arab and African immigration.

US plans closing 200 bases

South Carolina nuclear reactors to start production in December

WASHINGTON, May 2 (UPI): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney extended a freeze on \$7 billion in new military construction yesterday and ordered a review of 207 congressionally approved projects at bases for possible cancellation.

On his review list, which totals an additional \$1.2 billion, are four of the navy's six new strategic home ports, including Staten Island, N.Y., which is nearly complete.

Cheney made the announcement as the house began debating a 1991 budget that would cut some \$24 billion from President Bush's \$306.9 billion defence plan, but he denied his review list was meant as a warning to Congress.

"It's not sent as a signal to anybody," Cheney said, adding that the timing of the announcement was "purely coincidental" as his previous freeze on new military construc-

tion projects was to have expired at midnight Monday.

But Cheney said at a news conference that members of Congress should have no doubt that deep defence budget cuts will likely hurt everyone, including those bases and projects in their home districts and states.

"There are a lot of members of Congress who would like to be able... to go out on the floor and vote to cut the defence budget and then pick up the telephone and call me and say, 'Dick, you're not going to shut my base down, are you?'"

"There's a certain amount of hypocrisy involved in that," Cheney said.

"The thing members of Congress have to understand is, cutting the defence budget



Road block protest

Truckers partially block the road at French/West German border crossing outside Strasbourg, reducing traffic to single file. They are protesting a proposed West German project to tax commercial traffic in Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Multinational army proposal

Future for security units

BRUSSELS, May 2 (Reuters): For more than four decades, Western Europe's defences have relied on national armies, backed by a large US troop presence and thousands of nuclear weapons.

Now, with the cold war over and the prospect of much closer political and economic ties in Europe, all that could change.

Governments and politicians have begun discussing the possibility of creating multinational Western European military units as a key part of a future security structure for the continent.

But defence experts, worried about differences of language, training and doctrine, are sceptical. And there are some formidable political obstacles to be overcome.

"Military ideas are normally very rigid and depend on strong national traditions," said Wolfgang Heisenberg of the Brussels-based Centre for European Policy Studies.

"There are enormous difficulties involved... this will not happen soon on any large scale," he told Reuters.

A Brussels meeting of the multinational Western European Union (WEU) last month, defence and foreign ministers discussed the idea of creating multinational units to strengthen the European pillar of NATO.

The WEU — grouping Nato and European Economic Community (EEC) members Italy, Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain and Portugal — reached no conclusions at the meeting, but agreed to discuss their ideas further.

But the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has also recently begun looking at multinational units more closely, possibly with the involvement of US forces.

The political impetus for the idea is strong.

With plans to reduce the US troop presence in Europe sharply under the terms of an East-West agreement on conventional forces in Europe (CFE), the European Nato allies are keen to prove they can organise more of their own defences.

Nato officials say mixing troops from different countries would provide added security and reduce any chance of aggression on the continent.

"Given that some people, not least the Russians, are worried about how strong a united Germany will be in military terms, this might be a very useful answer to those worries," said one Nato diplomat. "It would be very difficult for any country to launch any sort of attack in that situation."

If, as expected, the number of US short range nuclear weapons in

Europe is sharply reduced through negotiations next year with Moscow, France and Britain — as Nato's only other nuclear powers — will be responsible for more of the deterrent.

"This means more European responsibility for defence," said the Nato diplomat.

The alliance thinks that creating multinational army units could also make for improved co-operation and better use of resources among the allies, an important aim now that countries are seeking to cut defence spending.

Another major incentive is the European Economic Community moves towards greater political co-operation, which may eventually include security and defence issues.

All but one of its 12 members, neutral Ireland, are also members of Nato.

But, however many good reasons there may be, there are political and practical pitfalls ahead.

France has expressed reservations about setting up multinational units, since it pursues a fiercely independent defence policy. Although a member of Nato, it left the alliance's integrated military structure in 1966.

Britain, realising that Western Europe will be able to rely less on US military support in the future, has been openly encouraging the French to rejoin — so far without success.

Any moves to create a more European defence will also have to take account of US sensibilities. None of the European allies want a complete US withdrawal and they are all keen to avoid the impression that they want to go it alone.

But the United States is under strong pressure to cut its huge budget deficit and Nato officials say Washington needs constant reassurances from its allies that they want American forces, currently some 300,000 strong, to stay in Europe.

No specific proposals for setting up multinational units have been made, although there have been suggestions within the WEU of setting up multinational brigades of about 5,000 men.

Nato already has one such unit, which is used to reinforce northern Norway or the Mediterranean area. It includes forces from several countries, all stationed in their home countries and brought together on an ad hoc basis.

France and West Germany have set up a joint brigade bilaterally, but military analysts say its greatest value is as a symbol of reconciliation after a century of enmity.

"Neither of these units function optimally as a military unit. They make a political statement," said one leading British military analyst who asked not to be named.

Probe into Hubble telescope glitch

GREENBELT, Maryland, May 2 (UPI): While probing a new glitch with the Hubble space telescope, Nasa planned finally to begin slowly switching on the observatory's many systems and high-tech instruments.

"I think we're ready to roll," said Nasa's Jim Moore at the Goddard Space Flight Centre. "I think we should be moving smartly into the activity of getting on with... starting to turn things on."

Engineers planned to begin transmitting to the telescope's high-speed antennas and sending computer commands issued by the space telescope science institute in Baltimore to bring its five in-

struments to life slowly.

The work was planned as technicians looked into a potential problem that cropped up yesterday with the 12-ton telescope's gyroscopes, which are used to position the craft.

"They really don't know what the problem is," said Nasa spokesman Jim Elliott. "But they don't think it's serious."

The problem occurred at about 1:13 am while engineers were testing \$1.5 billion telescope's three fine guidance sensors, which are used to locate and lock onto celestial targets.

Threatened by internal division Soviet army facing crisis

WASHINGTON, May 2 (AP): The Soviet military is facing a threat to its existence from ethnic differences and large-scale defections, two experts have told the house armed services committee.

The witnesses, Stephen Meyer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and John Hines of the Rand Corp., described a Soviet military fraught with problems ranging from public opposition to a significant percentage unable to speak Russian.

"The Soviet military establishment is facing an institutional crisis that is unprecedented in proportion in the post-war period," Meyer told the defence policy panel of the armed services committee.

Questioned whether the military could launch an offensive outside its borders, Hines forecast widespread problems for the Soviet armed forces.

"They would respond but it would take a great deal of time, it would be relatively ineffective force and potentially one that I think any serious commander would not want take into offensive operation," Hines said.

Problems in the military include the attitude of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who despite pleas from military officials approved student defections from the armed forces.

Three military leadership is alienated from Soviet Society, blamed for the war in Afghanistan as well as the widespread economic problems that plague the country, Meyer said.

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		12.00 pm	Break for prayer and lunch.
		2.00 pm	Festival cricket match for veterans.
		3.00 pm	Once in a life time chance to taste and enjoy delicious and mouth watering dishes. Games, lucky draw and magic show for children. Prize distribution.
Friday (11th May '90)		8.00 pm	Highlighting the golden era of Hyderabad followed by a grand Mushaira by guest and local poets and release of souvenir.
Thursday (17th May '90)			
Carton Tower Hotel, Fohed Al Salem St.			
Friday (18th May '90)		5.00 pm	Voluntary function and musical night of ghazals by invited artistes from Hyderabad and local artistes, light music and many more items.
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May day

Police use tear-gas

Battles mar first joint May Day in Berlin

WEST BERLIN, May 2. (Agencies): More than 500 youths fought pitched battles with police yesterday in the troubled Kreuzberg district, marking the first May Day in 44 years to be celebrated by Germans from both halves of the long-divided city.

Police in riot gear used water cannons and tear gas in a frustrated bid to control the mob that raged through Kreuzberg after nightfall, smashing shop windows, torching buildings and police cars and barricading streets.

Police arrested more than 50 rioters but had little success in suppressing the gangs, who for several hours pelted the charging riot-control officers with repeated volleys of rocks and bottles.

Some demonstrators hurled gasoline bombs, setting fire to at least two police vehicles. Demonstrators also tore up cobblestones and hurled them at the police, who were clad in khaki uniforms and equipped with riot gear and plexiglass shields.

Officials described the throng as 'hard-core' trouble-makers. Many wore masks to hide their identities and apparently came from an afternoon punk rock concert. The concert was organised by fringe groups opposed to German unification.

Explosive

Police said they were unable to estimate how many police and civilians were hurt in the melee.

"The situation is explosive. It looks as if we are in for a long night," police spokesman Hans Schulz told reporters after touring the riot-torn district.

The punk rock concert was attended by 15,000 people in Kreuzberg, a working-class neighbourhood adjacent to the Berlin Wall that is the home of Turkish immigrants, punk rockers and a variety of leftists and anarchists.

"We just hope (the rioting doesn't spread to other city districts)," West Berlin municipal spokesman Werner Kolhoff said.

The violence flared around 9 pm, with spectators lining the streets and crowding curbside cafes to watch the battles as sirens wailed and ambulances raced along the streets. Hundreds more looked on from the safety of their apartments in large apartment buildings.

Armoured cars roared through the debris-strewn streets crashing down hastily made street barricades, and in one case driving over a small car that had been set ablaze.

Arrests

Many of the 50 people arrested were young Turks, police said. Tens of thousands of Turkish guest-worker families live in the run-down tenement houses in Kreuzberg, a trouble-torn district that in recent years has been a frequent focal point for city unrest.

In the East German city of Leipzig, police detained 21 people after left-wing youths clashed with neo-Nazi activists, the official news agency ADN reported.

It was the first May Day in East Germany since the fall of its Stalinist elite last year and the first chance for the two sides of Berlin to celebrate together since 1946.

More than 50,000 people attended a trade union rally outside the Reichstag, the old German parliament building, in West Berlin yesterday.

East Berliners forming a line one km (half a mile) long marched to the rally through the Berlin Wall, opened last November, in a procession bearing little resemblance to the formal communist parades of past years.

Shocked

In Moscow, grim-faced Soviet leaders looked on aghast as radical protesters turned communism's annual May Day pat on the back into a blunt denunciation of the system.

"I'm not sure what they can do to beat this next year without resorting to violence," said one Western diplomat.

Tens of thousands of people took part in an official counter-demonstration in Red Square, using socialism's big day to deliver the most serious public rebuke to President Mikhail Gorbachev since he came to power five years ago.

Chanting 'down with the KGB' and 'freedom for Lithuania', many waved red, yellow and green Lithuanian flags and demanded an end to Moscow's economic blockade of the breakaway republic.

After standing on top of Lenin's mausoleum for 25 minutes, an unsmiling Gorbachev and fellow Kremlin leaders stalked off.

"We've won. The politburo is leaving the mausoleum. Resign, resign," sections of the crowd chanted.

"We're shocked the West is supporting Gorbachev," a young mother said. "Why is he so popular abroad? Do foreigners not realise how much we dislike him?"

In Nepal, citizens for the first time celebrated May Day legally, in keeping with the democratic reforms implemented last month by King Birendra.

In Mozambique, workers marched through downtown Maputo demanding higher wages and lower prices and celebrating their first May Day since the ruling party dropped its Marxist philosophy.

Clashes

In the Philippines, troops beat dozens of protesters outside a US-run air base and clashed with demonstrators elsewhere in rallies nation-wide to demand the removal of US military bases. Scores were reported injured.

In Budapest, thousands of people turned out for a giant trade union picnic in the city's largest park. The once all-powerful communists, soundly defeated in last month's polls, were reduced to running a single beer stand.

Romanians, demanding the resignation of interim President Ion Iliescu because of his communist past, continued a 10-day protest in Bucharest. At least 1,000 anti-Iliescu protesters gathered in a second city, Timisoara.

In Warsaw, Poland, 200 supporters of a left, anti-communist group marched to protest the Solidarity-led government's austerity policies.

In France, both the far-right and unionists marched in separate rallies to celebrate the labour holiday.

In Sofia, tens of thousands of people joined a parade organised by the dominant Socialist Party, the new name for Bulgaria's almost 100-year-old communist party. Large crowds also turned out for a rally by the opposition coalition.

Rallies

In Prague, Czechoslovakia, communist leader Vasil Mohorita, whose party still claims more than 1 million members, admitted the current anti-communist mood signalled "we are paying the price for not allowing other people to celebrate May Day as they wanted" in the past.

In Vienna, the 100-year-old Socialist Party staged an annual May Day parade, attended by city officials.

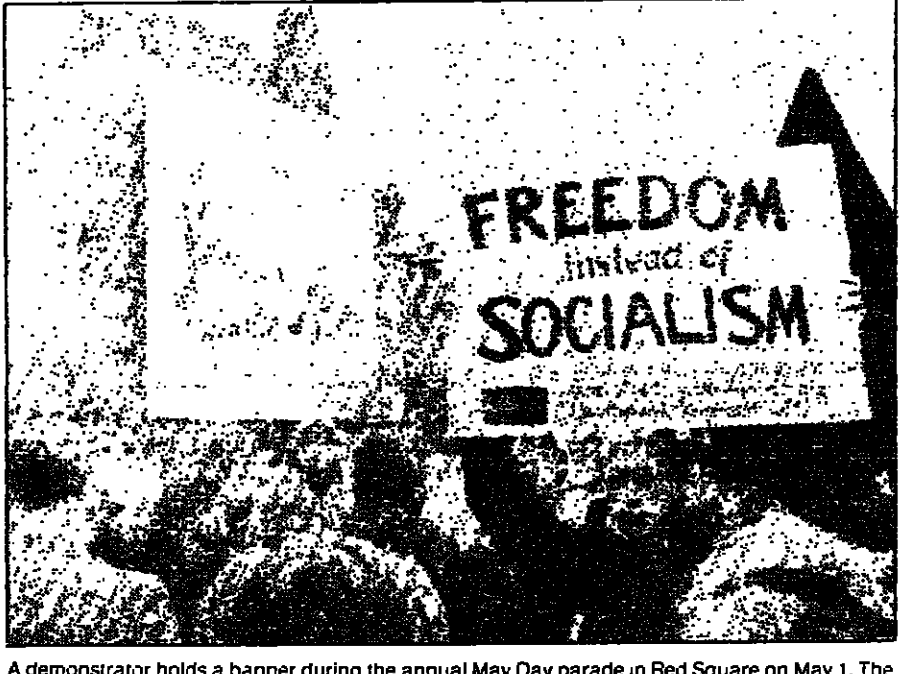
Europe's last bastion of Stalinism, Albania, had more orthodox celebrations.

In China, which unlike other communist countries never had a tradition of giant May Day parades, a holiday mood prevailed.

May Day celebrations were also uneventful in Japan, where at least 1 million workers gathered at rallies and the labour minister promised efforts to cut working hours, among the longest in the major industrial nations.



Soviet woman chanting slogans raises a banner during the annual May Day parade in Red Square on May 1. The banner reads 'Sukharev, leave' which refers to the state prosecutor. Thousands of radicals denounced Communist Party rule during the parade. (Reuter wirephoto)



A demonstrator holds a banner during the annual May Day parade in Red Square on May 1. The giant poster in the background shows the portraits of Max Engels and Lenin. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hungarians celebrate

Post-communist May Day

BUDAPEST, May 2. (Reuters): Tins labelled "the last breath of communism" sold like hot cakes in central Budapest yesterday as Hungarians marked their first post-communist May Day without national speeches or marches.

"We hope it is the last breath of communism," said Csaba Ory, secretary-general of the Democratic League of Independent Trade Unions whose wife had the idea of selling the empty tins at 35 forints (50 cents) each.

Yesterday was Hungary's first May Day since the Communist Party abandoned Marxist ideology and transformed itself into a Western-style socialist party last October.

Today, the country's first freely-elected Parliament since 1945 meets for the first time, without a single communist member.



Albanian leader Ramiz Alia sits with families at May Day celebrations on May 1 in this eastern city. A last bastion of Stalinist communism, Alia scoffed at reforming East bloc countries during his May Day speech. (Reuter wirephoto)

70 protestors sit in support of Mongolian hunger strikers

ULAN BATOR, May 2. (Reuters): With bitter wind swirling around patches of snow, 70 protestors sat in Ulan Bator's main square today to support hunger strikers campaigning for press freedom and faster democratic change.

Hundreds of curious onlookers gathered around the protesters but police did not intervene during the several hours of demonstration in the capital.

Witnesses said demonstrators held placards supporting 17 hunger strikers in the northwest town of Moron, some of whom began their protest last Friday.

Four were already weak, opposition sources said.

The hunger strike began after police arrested nine democracy activists who organised an illegal rally in the town. They were released after a large crowd gathered in protest around the police station.

The activists were the first to be seized by the communist authorities since Mongolia's peaceful democracy movement burst into life last December.

Opposition sources said there were other protest sit-ins in at least four other towns today. Hovd in the west, Erdenet and Darhan in the north and Dornod in the east of the vast country, which is the size of Western Europe.

Despite recent signs that the Communist Party was taking a tougher line towards the opposition democracy movement, it seemed unlikely force would be used, diplomats in Ulan Bator said.

Lithuania appeals

West for support

Persuade Moscow to break blockade

MOSCOW, May 2. (Agencies): Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis today appealed to the leaders of France and West Germany to help persuade Moscow to start talks with the breakaway republic on its independence bid.

In a message read to the Vuanian Parliament, Landsbergis also expressed his willingness to freeze "some of the effects" of laws bolstering the republic's March 11 declaration of independence.

But he said the declaration itself was sacred.

Lithuania's prime minister said yesterday she will ask US President George Bush to try to persuade the Soviet Union to break the economic

blockade imposed against Lithuania two weeks ago and recognise its declaration of independence.

Kazimiera Prunskiene told Lithuanian-Canadians at a meeting in Toronto that Bush and Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev had a prime opportunity to make history at their next summit, at the end of May, if they recognised Lithuania as an independent state.

"Both Bush and Mr Gorbachev when they meet, I hope they use the opportunity to leave their footprints in history as the initiators of a turning point in the history of Europe," she said.

Prunskiene is to meet Bush during a trip to Washington tomorrow.

Accompanied by Lithuania's minister of trade and its director of commercial affairs, she is in Canada seeking new trading partners and international political support.

"We as Lithuanians do not go begging as paupers for help. We are too proud for that," Prunskiene said. "But on the other hand, the doors are not as tightly shut as some people think and it is possible to get help."

She said no concrete business contracts had been signed in Canada but significant contacts had been made to explore future trade.

Prunskiene said earlier that the cities of Moscow and Leningrad were willing to help ease the economic blockade which has halted the republic's industry and manufacturing sectors.

"What we are expecting from them is a barter system, equality, product for product exchange and above all what we want help with from them is to put a stop to the transport blockade."

Prunskiene reiterated Lithuania's position that it was prepared to slow down secession from the Soviet Union if it received "iron-clad guarantees" from the international community that they will support independence.

"At no time and under no circumstances would there be any suspension of the document of independence," she added.

Landsbergis' letters were in response to a joint message from French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last Thursday urging patience and caution on Lithuania in its independence bid.

"The main point is to ask them to convey to the Soviet government that we really want to sit down at the negotiating table," said Rita Dapkus, an official at the Lithuanian Parliament's information office.

"We might be willing to freeze some of the effects of our resolutions," she said.

But Dapkus said the letter explicitly stated that "all questions are negotiable except for the March 11 declaration itself."

The text was due to be released after the letter to Mitterrand had been handed over in Paris later today. The other letter was due to be sent to Kohl through the West German embassy in Moscow.

Prunskiene also reiterated Lithuania's position that it is prepared to slow down or suspend certain activities associated with its declaration of independence "provided we have certain guarantees from the international community."

Boycott threat

BUCHAREST, May 2. (UPI): Five leading opposition parties threatened yesterday to boycott the May 20 elections unless the provisional government halts what they termed a "sabotage campaign" against them.

The opposition groups, which are facing an uphill struggle against the dominant National Salvation Front, alleged in a statement the government is unfairly restricting their access to the mass media and silencing their candidates through harassment and even violence.

"Our delegates are being violently attacked throughout the country, and even being murdered," the statement said.

Describing the action against them as a "sabotage campaign," the parties accused the government of systematically blocking the distribution of campaign literature and disrupting their political rallies.



A caricature of Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis with the words 'Where is Sajudis leading us?' is placed during a pro-Moscow communist rally in Vilnius on May 1. (Reuter wirephoto)

Demand for negotiations

Call to quit Latvia

RIGA, Latvia, USSR, May 2. (UPI): Latvia's new parliament, on the verge of considering secession from the Soviet Union, demanded negotiations begin for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Baltic republic.

Also yesterday, thousands of ethnic Russian workers demonstrated along the Daugava river and warned against "a second Lithuania" at a May Day rally, two days before Latvia's parliament considers declaring independence for the republic.

The 265 delegates, gathered at the Latvian Philharmonic Hall on the second day of the "Citizens Congress of the Latvian republic," also demanded "immediate discussions begin on the procedure by which the occupant military force of the USSR shall leave the territory of the Latvian republic."

The delegates were chosen in non-sanctioned elections April 8 by 700,000 direct descendants of Latvians who lived in the republic before its June 17, 1940, annexation. Its sister Baltic states of Estonia and Lithuania were annexed in the same year in a secret deal between Moscow and Nazi Germany.

The citizens' Congress met to form a shadow government it said would rule should the Baltic state secede from the Soviet Union, a move that a survey showed has near unanimous support among native Latvians.

About 15,000 ethnic Latvians rallied amid a sea of red Soviet flags at the May Day protest organised by Interfront, a Russian nationalist group that opposes secession from the Soviet Union.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has warned Latvia and Estonia they will face the same harsh reprisals that he imposed in Lithuania if they move rapidly to secede.

"The example of Lithuania is plainly visible to us," Viktors Alksnis, a conservative Latvian deputy in the Soviet Parliament, told the crowd.

"They made a decision in haste, and now suddenly it becomes clear that the cost of independence is \$1 billion a year for oil. And Latvia would need to pay \$1.3 billion."

First official visit

FGR president in Warsaw

WARSAW, May 2. (AP): West German President Richard von Weizsaecker arrived today for four days of talks as Poland seeks security guarantees from the two Germans before they unify.

Weizsaecker, the first West German head of state to visit Poland, was greeted at Warsaw's airport by Prime Minister Jozef Jazdzewski and other dignitaries with whom he will hold discussions.

The West German president will also visit the Nazi concentration camp at Treblinka, and Gdansk, the former free city of Danzig whose small Polish garrison was shelled by the German army at the outset of World War II.

Von Weizsaecker's trip marks a new stage in the centuries of complex, and often bloody, relations between the neighbouring nations.

West Germany is Poland's largest Western trading partner, and its support is critical to the success of the economic and political reforms undertaken by the new non-communist government.

But many older Poles who recall Germany's devastating World War II invasion and occupation feel bitter about Germans and do not trust them.

Poland is seeking a seat at unification talks to guarantee its postwar western border, and wants a treaty with the two Germans and the new government of a united Germany to make the treaty permanent.

Drawn along the Oder and Neisse rivers, the boundary incorporates into Poland 102,000 square kms (40,000 square miles) of land from the defeated Germany. The territory was to compensate Poland for a larger section annexed by the Soviet Union.

After some hesitation, leaders in both Germanys have offered promises concerning the border.

Hungary's legislature meets for first time

BUDAPEST, May 2. (AP): The country's first democratic legislature in 42 years convened today to the poetry of a 19th-century patriot and a speech by the octogenarian speaker of Hungary's last freely elected parliament.

A year to the day after Hungary opened the iron curtain and paved the way to Eastern Europe's revolt against communism, 384 deputies filed into parliament's lofty chamber, newly stripped of its old communist coat of arms.

The insignia of the old "People's Republic," renamed simply the "Republic of Hungary," in October, was removed just last week.

In another gesture symbolising Hungary's transition from communism to democracy, many of the deputies had arrived from St. Stephen's Cathedral, reviving a long-lost tradition of attending mass before opening parliament.

Task

The most important task facing the new legislature at its first, largely ceremonial two-day session is choosing a new house speaker, who also will serve as interim president.

He will replace Matyas Szurocs, a member of the Socialist Party created from the Communist Party that dissolved last year. It remains to be decided whether the president will eventually be chosen by the people through direct election.

The deputies also bid formal farewell to the caretaker government of Miklos Nemeth, a socialist who is likely to be replaced this month by Jozsef Antall, leader of the Hungarian Democratic Forum that won elections held in March and April.

Unlike other East European nations, where the move away from communism was swift and dramatic, Hungary shifted toward democracy in gradual steps led by reform-minded communists over the past two years.

One of its boldest moves was to begin demolishing iron curtain fortifications along the border with Austria one year ago. The move encouraged a westward exodus of East Germans that in turn fed a revolt against Stalinism in that country. The revolt spread swiftly to Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Reforms

Despite the reforms of Hungary's communists, four decades of repressive rule built up so much popular anger that their socialist successors won only 33 seats in the recent elections.

Hungary's politics now are dominated by the centre-right and strongly nationalist Hungarian Democratic Forum, which has 164 seats.

The Liberal League of Free Democrats, founded by former dissidents, is the second-largest party with 94 seats.

The Forum wants to try to form a majority coalition with the agrarian-based independent smallholders, who have 44 deputies, and the Christian Democrats, who have 21.

Although the Forum and the rival Free Democrats refused to govern together, the state news agency MTI reported Tuesday that they have agreed on who should replace Szurocs as house speaker and interim president.

Nominate

MTI said the two parties agreed to nominate Free Democrat Arpad Goencz, a 68-year-old writer jailed for six years after Hungary's 1956 anti-Stalinist revolt.

Historian Gyoergy Szabad, 66, a founding member of the Forum, was nominated as Goencz' deputy and would thus act as house speaker.

The session's opening minutes were laden with gestures intended to link Hungary's new democratic present with periods of freedom from the past.

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Germanys agree on economy plan

EAST BERLIN, May 2. (Agencies) The two German states agreed on a plan today for merging their economies, officials said.

The tentative agreement sets the stage for the merger to take place on July 2. Such a merger is considered a major step toward full unification of the countries created when Germany was divided after World War II.

East and West Germany have been negotiating for weeks over how West Germany can absorb the devastated East Germany economy without threatening the strength of its powerful currency.

Officials in Bonn and East Berlin said the nations

agreed to exchange East Germany marks for West German marks at a 1-1 rate for most savings accounts of 4,000 marks (\$2,300) and lower.

Accounts above that would be exchanged at a rate of two East German marks for one West German mark.

However, the 1-1 rate would apply to accounts of up to 6,000 marks (\$3,530) for East Germans aged 60 and older.

Wages and salaries for all East Germans would be exchanged at a 1-1 rate.

Bonn initially proposed a 4,000-mark limit on 1-1 exchanges for all savings accounts, but East Ger-

many demanded a higher ceiling.

The agreement was confirmed by Matthias Gehler, spokesman of East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere, and Rudolf Seifert, chief of staff for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Seifert said the new official exchange rate for the

East German marks will be 2-10-1, effective immediately. Since Jan 1, 1990, the official rate was 3-40-1.

A full political merger between the two Germany states likely will take place next year.

Nato foreign ministers meet in Brussels tomorrow to discuss how to convince Moscow that

a single Germany should be a member of the Western alliance.

The special meeting is the first of a series of consultations over the next few weeks on the future of the 16-nation alliance now that four decades of cold war are over.

"Of all the questions we shall discuss, the German question is the key," said one senior Nato diplomat. "Every other issue depends in some way on what happens to Germany."

US Secretary of State James Baker will brief Washington's allies on what he expects from his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard

Shevardnadze in Bonn on Friday and from the so-called "two plus four" talks there on Saturday.

Foreign ministers from the four World War II allied powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain — are due to hold a first round of talks with their counterparts from the two Germanys to hammer out security aspects of unification.

All those nations except East Germany and the Soviet Union are Nato members. Even East Germany now appears prepared to accept membership of a united state in the Western pact.

Moscow is alone in preferring a neutral Germany

but has given conflicting signals recently on whether Nato membership is totally unacceptable. Nato says it has responded to Soviet security concerns by pledging not to station troops in what is now East Germany.

"We must convince Moscow that a country the size of Germany cannot be allowed to be neutral," the Nato diplomat said.

● The cost of German unification and its impact on world economies will be the main topic when central bankers from the group of seven industrialised countries meet in Washington this weekend, analysts said.

Malaysia turning away refugees

KUALA LUMPUR, May 2. (Reuters) Malaysia has pushed more than 6,000 Vietnamese boat people away from its shores, including some 2,000 since mid-February, diplomatic sources said today.

Forty-seven boats carrying 2,268 people had been turned away from Malaysian shores since the second half of February, bringing the overall total of boat people rejected to 6,067. The most recent incident was on April 22, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said the number turned away in recent weeks was the highest since May 1989, when Malaysia began rejecting boats bringing new arrivals, drawing an international outcry.

Malaysia has consistently denied the allegations. It has in turn accused the United States and refugee groups for waging an unfair international media campaign against Malaysia, which plays a reluctant host to 20,000 boat people.

US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said last month that Malaysia's "push-back" policy had resulted in the deaths of four Vietnamese boat people.

Washington and human rights groups also say that Malaysia's actions contravened a Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) agreement Kuala Lumpur chaired last June to give temporary asylum to boat people before screening to separate genuine refugees from economic migrants.

The latest reports bring to 123 the number of Vietnamese boats which have been turned away from Malaysia's east coast, the diplomatic sources said.

They said Malaysia appeared anxious that no consensus had been reached on the question of repatriation among first asylum and resettlement countries and Vietnam, who last met in January.

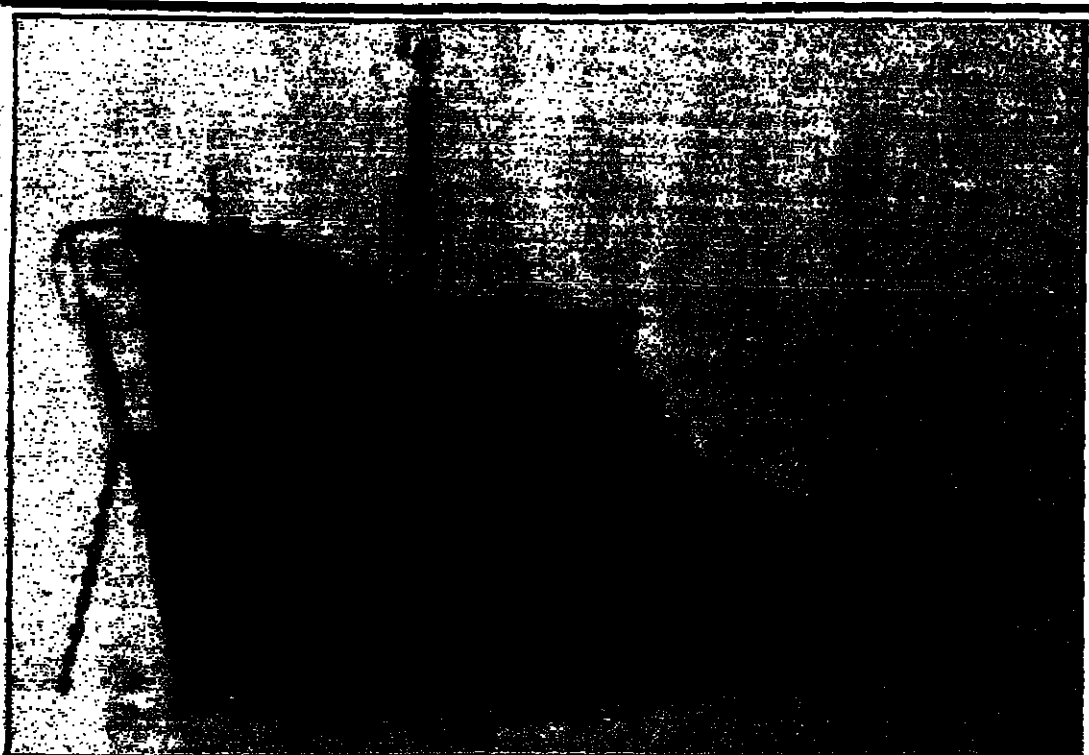
Torture rife in Burma

SYDNEY, May 2. (AP) Amnesty International today said that hundreds and possibly thousands of political dissidents had been rounded up in Burma ahead of the May 28 election, and that torture was widespread. "The security forces have almost unrestricted authority to make arbitrary arrests, to detain opponents or suspected critics without either charging or trying them, and to interrogate them using torture," said Eric Sidoti, the organisation's director of communications for Australia.

"We know that hundreds of people have been detained but we believe it could be thousands," Sidoti told the Associated Press. "People are being given three years hard labour to life just for criticising the government or condemning the military."

Sidoti's comments coincided with the simultaneous release around the world of Amnesty's report on human rights violations in Burma.

He said torture was now rife, whereas it had once been confined to areas of armed conflict. "It is widespread, standard operating procedure and not restricted to any particular military unit," Sidoti said.



Goddess of Democracy

The Goddess of Democracy, a ship with a crew determined to broadcast pro-democracy messages from international waters to China, docked Wednesday in Singapore and quickly resupplied for the last leg of its mission.

The vessel, named after the statue that students built in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June before the army crushed the democracy movement, made it to Singapore undamaged, despite having passed through a severe Indian Ocean storm.

Members of the French crew said their stop for supplies in Singapore would be brief in an effort to recover time lost because of the storm.

Port authorities allowed the 1,140-ton research vessel to pull up to Clifford Pier despite harsh criticism from Beijing directed at countries aiding the venture, which began

March 17 in France. The ship's next stop is Taiwan.

Singapore, which has no diplomatic ties with China but is hoping to establish them, said the Goddess of Democracy was allowed to dock because Singapore is a free port.

China's official Xinhua news agency said Taiwan's willingness to assist the vessel was an "open provocation" against the Chinese government. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has not ruled out using force to halt the broadcast of music, news and pro-democracy reports from international waters scheduled to start this month.

Taiwan officials have confirmed the red-and-white vessel will be allowed to dock and resupply at the port of Keelung, north of Taipei. They said the military would protect the ship if it is attacked while in Taiwan waters.

China uprisings 'fierce'

BEIJING, May 2. (Reuters)

China faces a huge task in opposing 'fierce' Muslim separatism in its northwest frontier region, an official warned in a report weeks after police crushed an uprising there.

The April 26 edition of the Xinjiang Daily, reaching Beijing today, also quoted another official as saying religion must not influence major aspects of life and offenders would be punished by law.

Amudun Niyaz, Communist Party deputy secretary in Xinjiang, said rioting smashed by police last month in Baren, near the Silk Road town of Kashgar, was not an isolated incident, the newspaper said.

"Although the armed turmoil in Baren town has been quelled, our task henceforth is enormous," Niyaz was quoted as saying.

"The Baren incident was definitely not an isolated one. We can clearly see from the Baren incident that separatism and the fight against separatism exists and is very fierce," he said.

It was not clear if his remarks meant there had been other revolts recently in Xinjiang, a vast region of 15 million people, half of whom share Islamic

Buddha's birthday Chinese mark

BEIJING, May 2. (AP) Middle-aged Chinese matrons crowded the doors of a temple thick with incense and chanted ancient praises of Buddha as they and believers across China celebrated his birthday today.

"Original teacher, sakyamuni, Buddha," they recited to the rapid beat of a wooden fish-shaped drum in one of the few chants made in Chinese.

Most were in the Indian language in which Buddhist scriptures first came to China 19 centuries ago, and one woman wearing the white cap of a sanitation worker prayed cheerfully that she didn't understand a word.

"See, the prayers are written in Chinese characters that have the same sound, but it doesn't mean anything in Chinese," she said.

But this detracted nothing from the fervour of the more than 100 worshippers at Beijing's Guangji temple, who included a sprinkling of teenagers and young parents.

They joined 40 monks at the temple, one of four functioning temples in the Chinese capital, in celebrating the holiest day in the Chinese Buddhist calendar — the day the enlightened one was born in a tiny Indian state in the 6th century BC.

Beliefs with Muslims living in the Soviet Union's restive Asian republics across the border.

But Niyaz appeared to contradict the official version of the Baren crackdown, which has maintained that trouble was whipped up by a "small handful of extremists". Beijing has said armed police opened fire in Baren to thwart a handful of extremists bent on starting a "holy war" in China.

Official reports said 22 people died in fighting in Baren. Tourists spoke of 50 people of the Kirghiz minority killed by security forces.

The Xinjiang Daily quoted Bai Dai, chairman of the regional government's advisory body, as telling a religion conference that religion must not influence administrative, cultural, judicial, educational or matrimonial affairs.



Act of sabotage

Thirty-two cars were destroyed in the parking lot of Tokyo International Airport Wednesday, Japanese authorities said indicating it could be an act of sabotage.

The officials further said that fire broke out at 4.00 am (local time) in a tourist zone and destroyed an unspecified number of cars.

They added cables and batteries, believed to be used in

setting fire, were found at the scene. Leftist extremists who reject the expansion of the airport are said to be behind the incidents.

Meanwhile, another fire was reported near Osaka airport to the west of the capital but no further information was immediately available. In the picture, police examine the remains of the cars. (Reuters wirephoto)

Taiwan's Defence Minister Gen Hau Pei-Tsun offered premiership

TAIPEI, May 2. (UPI) President Lee Teng-hui yesterday asked powerful Defence Chief Gen Hau Pei-Tsun to serve as Taiwan's next premier in a surprise move ending more than one month of speculation, local media reported.

The state-run broadcasting corporation of China and the mass-circulation Times, quoting informed sources, said President Lee met with the Defence Minister before the weekly meeting of top Kuomintang leaders last morning.

Gen Hau, 71, accepted the President's offer to head the new cabinet which will be established after President Lee is inaugurated on his first full six-year term May 20, the reports said.

Presidential spokesman Cheyne Chiu confirmed that President Lee met with Hau last morning, but declined to comment on what they discussed. Hau, who left the meeting smiling broadly, also declined comment.

Speculation has been rampant over whether President Lee would renominate incumbent Premier Lee Huan, who reportedly has been in conflict with the President since taking office less than one year ago.

The Times said President Lee decided to nominate Hau as the new premier because the powerful defence chief could help stabilise Taiwan's social, economic and political situation.

The crime rate has skyrocketed since the late President Chiang Ching-Kuo lifted martial law in July 1987. With 3,200 violent crimes committed in the first seven months of 1989, or a leap of 25 per cent from the same period the previous year.

Many businessmen are considering moving operations abroad due to the island's deteriorating investment climate, caused in part by power struggles between top leaders that have paralysed the government.

De Klerk, Mandela begin historic talks

Thatcher to meet ANC leader in July

CAPE TOWN, May 2. (Agencies) President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela pledged today to abolish apartheid as they launched historic talks on ending white minority rule.

De Klerk and Mandela said the government and the rival ANC would seek to quickly clear the way for full-scale constitutional negotiations on bringing the 28-million black majority into the national government.

Mandela, standing next to De Klerk in front of palatial Dutch colonial mansion where the talks are being held, said swift progress was vital and the patience of blacks was running out.

"We must succeed in the endeavour to remove these obstacles so that

we can together move forward as rapidly as possible to end the inhuman system of apartheid," Mandela said.

De Klerk also called for rapid progress. He challenged the ANC to help end a wave of violence that has claimed hundreds of lives in recent months, and said all political parties must make every effort to restore peace.

The ANC has been seeking discussions with white-led South African governments since the organisation was founded in 1912.

The ANC was banned in 1960, and began a sabotage and guerrilla campaign the next year under Mandela's leadership. Last February, De Klerk legalised the ANC, its military wing and 58 other organisations, and freed Mandela and other ANC leaders from life prison terms.



Members of the African National Congress (ANC) delegation due to meet with the South African government pose for a group picture yesterday. From left are Ruth Mompoti, Alfred Nzo, Nelson Mandela, Joe Slovo, Walter Sisulu and Cheryl Carolus. Back from left: Archie Gumede, Ahmed Kathrada, Joe Modisa, Bayers Naude and Thabo Mbeki. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sino-US top-level talks on Cambodia

WASHINGTON, May 2

(Reuters) The United States said yesterday it had urged China to halt or at least scale down its military aid to Khmer Rouge guerrillas fighting the Hanoi-backed government in Cambodia as part of a comprehensive settlement.

"In our high-level contacts ... we have discussed with China the need to control the Khmer Rouge in the context of a comprehensive settlement in Cambodia," the US State Department said in a statement.

"We have asked the Chinese to terminate their military aid to the Khmer Rouge and have urged them at a minimum to reduce the level of such assistance," the department added.

The statement followed a published report that China had defied requests from the United States, recently sent large new shipments of weapons to the Khmer Rouge.

The New York Times, quoting unidentified US government officials, said the weapons included mortars, rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-aircraft machine guns, rocket launchers and heavy artillery.

Former Khmer Rouge Prime Minister Pol Pot, a Chinese ally, ruled Cambodia from 1975 until 1978 when Vietnam invaded after border skirmishes. More than a million Cambodians are believed to have died during his rule, and the United States and virtually every other country has opposed any Khmer Rouge return to power.

US National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who made secret trips to Beijing in July and December, had asked the Chinese to curtail military support for the Khmer Rouge, the New York Times said.

A senior Australian envoy left Beijing today after talks with Chinese officials on Cambodia, a day after a Vietnamese deputy foreign minister arrived for similar talks, but diplomats were tight-lipped on the negotiations.

Eritrean rebels claim sinking ship

Three-decade-old war

NAIROBI, Kenya, May 2. (AP)

Eritrean rebels, waging their largest offensive in 29 years of war, claim they sank an Ethiopian Navy vessel in an attack on a small Red Sea port yesterday.

In a clandestine radio broadcast today, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said a rebel "naval force" sank the ship Kaleb at Tio Port, halfway between Massawa and Assab, the country's two major ports.

The broadcast, monitored in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, gave no further description of the ship. It was not possible to independently verify the rebel claim and the government rarely comments on broadcasts by the insurgents.

The Eritreans launched the offensive Feb 8 and three days later captured the port of Massawa, gateway to Ethiopia's northernmost province of Eritrea.

Since the fighting began, the rebels have reported a series of battlefield victories, including sinking or capturing 12 of the government's naval fleet of two frigates and 21 patrol boats.

The rebels are waging a three-decade-old war for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony annexed to the Horn of Africa nation in 1962 by the late Emperor Haile Selassie.

Meanwhile, President Mengistu Haile Mariam, once among Africa's most vocal exponents of East Bloc Marxism, Tuesday used his traditional May Day speech to make an emotional appeal for national survival, calling Ethiopia "the weakest of the weak."

Part of the campaign by the so-called EPLF, TPLF and their cohorts have been directed against me in person," Mengistu said. "The mood of the Ethiopian people at present is no longer as militant as it has been. Ethiopia is not only a land of permanent civil strife but also the weakest of the weak."

Ethiopian rebels said today they had launched a sea-borne attack on the government-held harbour of Tio, sinking a naval vessel.

In a statement telecast to Reuters in Nairobi, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said the vessel Kaleb was sunk on Sunday during an attack on Tio, about 230 km (140 miles) southwest of the strategic Red Sea port of Massawa.

He also suggested he felt personally overwhelmed by Ethiopia's two ongoing bloody civil wars with Eritrean and Tigrean rebels.

Making only token mention of the socialist ideals he has claimed for 16 years to stand for, the 49-year-old president said he believed the internal fighting in his famine-plagued nation was aimed at eliminating him.

"The rebels in the north are a formidable force commanding big financial and material resources," Mengistu conceded. "They regard me as a key obstacle to their goals."

He said he had "escaped nine attempts on my life here in Addis Ababa alone," but that if he was toppled his followers would continue his "fight for national unity."

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Iran rules out talks

Khamenei attacks US

NICOSIA, May 2, (AP): Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei today ruled out negotiations with the United States to end the decade-old feud that followed the establishment of the Islamic republic.

Khamenei's statement, carried by the state-run Islamic republic news agency ended a week-long debate in the Iranian press that followed an article by a senior government official suggesting a dialogue with the United States.

It also followed a State Department report which yesterday listed Iran as a supporter of terrorism, despite US President George Bush's acknowledged agreement that Tehran had helped secure the release of American hostages Robert Polhill and Frank Reed.

Polhill, 55, was freed by his pro-Iranian Muslim captors in Lebanon on April 22. Reed, 57, who also had been held by Iranian-backed Muslim zealots was released on Monday.

"I am against holding negotiations with the United States, and the Islamic republic government would not possibly do so without my consent," Khamenei quoted Khamenei as saying in response to the article by Vice President Atallah Mohajerani, published in the daily newspaper Ettelaat.

Government officials "are naturally against such a thing," Khamenei said.

He added: "Those who think we must open negotiations with the United States are either simple-minded or terrified."

Mohajerani's article has been sharply attacked by radicals who consider dealings with the United States contradicts their ideology and the teachings of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic republic. The radical Farsi-language newspaper Jomhuri Islami said on Saturday that Mohajerani's article had "stirred a feeling of disgust among the people and the officials."

The English-language Tehran Times quoted a senior presidential aide as saying Mohajerani's comments were "the personal view of the writer and President Hashemi Rafsanjani has got nothing to do with it."

The paper quoted Masih Mohajeri, Rafsanjani's advisor on social affairs, as saying: "I talked to the President on Sunday and he made it clear the article reflects the personal opinion of the writer and it has no connection with him."

Tehran Times, which close to the President, said that Mohajeri did not indicate whether Rafsanjani himself was for or against the idea of opening direct talks with Washington.

Rafsanjani, leader of the country's so-called pragmatists, reportedly favours reconciliation with the United States and the West in general in an effort to



President Ali Khamenei

Should be part of any deal

Missing Israelis

OCCUPIED Jerusalem May 2, (AP): Israeli officials, reacting to an indirect US appeal to free Arab prisoners to encourage releases of Western hostages, insisted yesterday that Israel wanted three missing Israelis to be part of any deal.

US President George Bush said on Monday he had "certainly no objection" to Israel freeing prisoners as a goodwill gesture as called for by a Tehran newspaper.

Avi Pazner, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said Israel had received no US request for a prisoner release and responded "certainly not" when asked if he viewed Bush's remarks as pressure.

"The United States has ways to convey its opinions to us. We are in close touch always. We haven't been told anything of this," he said.

Asked if Israel refused to free Arab detainees unless captive Israelis were released, Pazner said he did not want to phrase his comments in a "negative way."

"Our policy is to get our prisoners back and for that purpose we are ready to consider the release of people detained here," he said.

Danny Naveh, spokesman for Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, said Israeli captives were Israel's first priority. "Our interest is to release our hostages," he said.

attract investment and technology for the flagging economy. He is believed to have played the major role in securing the release of the two American hostages from captivity in Lebanon.

The captivity of 16 other Western hostages in Lebanon is a major obstacle preventing better ties between Iran and the West, especially the United States. The hostages include six other Americans. Although Rafsanjani appears to be distancing himself from Mohajerani's comments, they were a bold step by the pragmatic camp to break the taboo on public discussion of possible dealings with the United States.

No concessions to Syria, Iran

It's a quid pro quo exercise, says Baker

WASHINGTON, May 2, (Reuters): The United States will make no concessions to Syria or Iran other than thanking them for the release of two American hostages from Lebanon in the past eight days, Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday.

Baker told a subcommittee of the Senate appropriations committee the Bush administration was determined to stick to its policy of not negotiating with what he called terrorists or hostage-takers.

Responding to a question from Senator Robert Kasten, a Wisconsin Republican, whether the United States intended taking concrete steps to reward Iran or Syria for their role in the release of hostages Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, Baker said:

"I think that the main concern expressed in your question, that somehow we are going to engage in some sort of a quid pro quo exercise, you can put to

rest. "With respect to the normalisation of relations with those two governments, they both know what is required."

The first of the two hostages to be released, Polhill, delivered a message from his captors to President George Bush on May 2. Baker declined to give any details.

"I will not comment on what we are being asked to do directly or indirectly," he said.

Earlier in the day, US ambassador to Syria Edward Djerejian said the United States was eager to find out whether the two releases signalled the beginning of a process to free all hostages in Lebanon.

Interviewed from Damascus on US television, Djerejian said: "We have to determine now at this very sensitive stage if there is a process under way

for the release of all hostages. This is a very important point."

Djerejian said the United States understood Syria did not expect any reciprocal gestures for the release of Polhill last week and Frank Reed on Monday.

"Let's understand that the release of these two American hostages was unconditional and from the very beginning expressed to us as a gesture of good will. We've taken that at face value. We have thanked the Syrian government. We have thanked the Iranian government," he said.

Iran, suffering from economic hardships, has been eager for the United States to release all or part of the assets ordered frozen by Washington in 1979. Iran has said \$12 billion is in dispute but US government sources have said it is in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Reed surprised to learn 16 still held

McCarthy, Keenan still alive

WIESBADEN, West Germany, May 2, (Agencies): Frank Reed was kept with as many as six other western hostages during his 3 1/2 years in captivity and is "angry with everybody," that others are still held, his wife said today.

Fahima Reed also said that whenever another hostage was taken away her husband thought the captive was being freed. She said he was surprised and angered to learn that 16 other western hostages still are held in Lebanon.

Reed, 57, who was released on Monday, thought he would be the last

-hostage freed, she said.

The 16 remaining hostages, including six other Americans, are believed to be held by Shiite Muslim extremist groups in Lebanon loyal to Iran.

"Our joy will not be complete until every single one of them is free," Mrs Reed told a news conference.

Reed has provided the first evidence that two British hostages seized by kidnappers in Beirut in 1986 are still alive, Britain's foreign office said today.



Frank Reed, his wife Fati and his 9-year-old son Tarik addressing the press from the balcony of the US Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden, West Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fate of hostages depends on US

A Foreign Office spokesman said Reed, had seen television journalist John McCarthy and teacher Brian Keenan last Saturday.

"We can confirm that Reed said that, and we are absolutely delighted at that report," he said.

A British group, friends of John McCarthy, which has been pressing for his release, said Reed had told the hostess's father that McCarthy and Keenan were both well although they had some minor health problems.

Jill Morrell, a friend of McCarthy, said the two men were mostly kept blindfolded and chained but were allowed time to exercise.

Group spokesman Chris Pearson said: "This is the best thing that has happened in about four years. This is definitely the strongest news we have had."

Mrs Reed refused to discuss the message her husband was reportedly given by the hostage-takers for US President George Bush.

"I didn't get into that because this is not my business," she said. Another US hostage, Robert Polhill, who was freed April 22, delivered a private message from his kidnappers to Bush in Washington yesterday. US official refused to divulge the message.

Reed was blindfolded and bound for nearly his entire captivity in Lebanon, except for about 90 minutes during the evenings, said Mrs Reed, who is 39 and was born in Syria.

Among the westerners who had been held with Reed was Terry Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press and the longest-held captive, said Mrs Reed.

Officials in Washington said yesterday they were grateful Reed was free, but they won't be satisfied until the rest of the hostages are released.

Asked whether her husband was upset with Washington for not taking action to free hostages, Mrs Reed said, "he's angry with everybody for the length of time he was kept, and for the length of time others were kept and that others are still there, too."

Mrs Reed and the couple's nine-year-old son, Tarek, were reunited with Reed at the hospital yesterday.

"We hugged, and then there was a moment of complete silence. It was just hugging, hugging, hugging," Mrs Reed said.

When asked what he said when he finally got to see his father, the boy replied: "I miss him. I love him."

Asked whether other hostages were in the same room with her husband, Mrs Reed said: "Sometimes five or six, sometimes two. Many times he was kept alone. ... He did see Terry Anderson. But I have no other information on that."

BEIRUT, May 2, (Reuters): A top pro-Iranian Hezbollah official said today Washington should now act to insure Israel frees Arab prisoners if it wanted the six remaining US hostages in Lebanon to be released.

The official, who refused to be named, said the release in the past two weeks of Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed was a direct result of Iranian pressure on hostage-takers in Lebanon.

The Hezbollah is believed to be the umbrella group under which the pro-Iranian hostage-takers operate. The Shiite Muslim group has consistently denied any role in the kidnappings.

The Hezbollah official told Reuters the release of Polhill on April 22 and Reed on Monday "was to prove the goodwill of the kidnappers and show the eagerness of Iran and Syria to solve the hostage crisis from all its aspects and in all areas."

He said Washington should put pressure on Israel, its main ally in the Middle East, to free hundreds of Muslim prisoners, including Hezbollah cleric Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid who was seized by Israeli commandos in south Lebanon last year.

"The release has brought the ball back into the American court... now the United States is required to give the issue of prisoners held by Israel proper interest and care by exerting pressure on (Israel) to free the captives it holds," he added.

The kidnappers still hold 15 Westerners in Lebanon, including the six Americans. They have demanded freedom for some 400 Lebanese and Palestinians in Israeli jails and political concessions from the West in exchange for their captives.

Israel, which controls a border zone in south Lebanon, has said it would not swap Arab prisoners for Western captives unless three Israelis captured by Hezbollah were freed.

The Hezbollah official said the three Israelis were Prisoners of War and their detention was not linked to the fate of Arab prisoners and Western hostages.

President George Bush has thanked Iran and Syria for their help in freeing Polhill and Reed, but said he was unwilling to make any concessions to win the freedom of the six Americans.

Britain expels Iranian student

LONDON, May 2, (AP): Britain has expelled an Iranian graduate student as a security risk, the Home Office said today.

Manouchehr Fadavi Ardestani, studying for his doctorate in mechanical engineering in Manchester, was the 10th Iranian ordered out of Britain this year.

The Home Office said his deportation was ordered on April 26 and he left Heathrow airport for Tehran last night.

"He was deported on grounds that this would be conducive to public good for reasons of national security," the Home Office said. It refused to give any other details about Ardestani.

The British government announced Feb 1 that it had ordered nine Iranians, including the London Bureau Chief of Iran's state-run television network, to leave by Feb 9 for reasons of national security. The Home Office said all nine left.

Britain expelled 20 Iranians last year on security grounds.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, Irna, reporting Ardestani's arrival in Tehran this morning, said "the British government once again demonstrates its hostility against the Islamic Revolution by expelling another Iranian student."

"Ironically, London has repeatedly asked the Islamic Republic of Iran (to) help secure release of British hostages in Lebanon," it said.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd yesterday said Britain is making every effort to free its hostages in Lebanon but will not change its policy of refusing to make deals with the kidnappers.

Diplomatic relations between Iran and Britain were severed in February 1989 after the late Ayatollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." Britain has defended his right to free speech.

Hurd said Britain had made it clear it had "no quarrel with the Iranian government or the people of Iran."

Khomeini memorial

NICOSIA, May 2, (Reuters): Iran expects more than a million people to attend six days of ceremonies marking the first anniversary in June of the death of Ayatollah Khomeini, organisers said yesterday.

Mohammad Ali Ansari, a close aide to the late spiritual leader, said more than 3,000 Muslim personalities from around the world would be invited for the memorial from June 1 to 6.

"Arrangements have been made to accommodate 3,000 foreign guests and one million others who are expected in Tehran for the commemorative ceremony," the Iranian news agency Irna quoted him as saying.

Tehran radio quoted Ansari as saying the main event would be a meeting on June 4 at Khomeini's shrine in the southern outskirts of Tehran.

Iranian television showed a group of 60 men wearing white shirts and black scarves starting a 940-km (590-mile) March from the eastern city of Mashhad yesterday to attend the memorial in Tehran.

School examinations in the six-day period would be postponed to enable students to attend the events, he added.

Officers protest

Sudan executions

CAIRO, May 2, (Reuters): A group of officers has submitted a note to Sudan's military ruler protesting against the execution of 28 officers nine days ago for their alleged role in a swiftly crushed coup attempt, diplomats said today.

The note, delivered earlier this week, was the first sign of dissent within the Sudanese military over the executions, which an Arab human rights group said were carried out following trials before emergency military tribunals lasting only two hours.

Police on Monday used tear-gas and whips to disperse a demonstration by women relatives of the 28 executed officers, according to diplomats and witnesses. They said police dispersed smaller street protests also on Monday in Khartoum and in its twin city of Omdurman. There were no injuries or arrests made, they added.

The diplomats, reached by telephone in Khartoum, told Reuters that there were no signs today in the capital of heavier army presence following the April 23 coup bid.

"No additional tanks or troops have been deployed, but curfew is enforced more strictly and checks are now very thorough at the gates of the armed forces headquarters," one diplomat said.

Khartoum, a dusty and mainly slum city of an estimated seven million people, has been under night curfew since a coup last June which brought Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to power in Africa's largest country.

Bashir has accused the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting the government in the south since 1983, of being involved in last week's coup bid, but later said that he wanted fresh peace talks with the guerrillas.

US can show gratitude

AT 'claims talks' with Iran

THE HAGUE, May 2, (Reuters): Talks between US and Iranian officials on financial disputes may offer Washington its first chance to subtly show gratitude to Tehran for help in the release of two American hostages.

The talks that began in the Hague on Tuesday between US State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer and his Iranian counterpart, Goudraz Eftekhari, are aimed at easing disputes at the Iran-US claims tribunal.

Set up under a 1981 accord which freed 52 US hostages in Tehran, the tribunal settles claims between the two countries arising from the 1979 Iranian revolution. It is the only forum where the two countries hold official bilateral talks.

American officials stress that the high-level talks, a day after the release of US hostage Frank Reed, are the eighth in a series that began last summer and insist there is no link with hostages in Lebanon.

But with Washington hoping for Iranian help in freeing six more US hostages in Lebanon, the tribunal where lawyers have been quietly rubbing shoulders for years offers a chance for some American goodwill, diplomatic analysts said.

Officially under discussion is a lump-sum deal for some 2,300 US "small claims" against Iran of under \$250,000.

An undisclosed sum has been agreed by the two sides, but the final wording of a settlement that will save both countries the cost of years of litigation are still being worked out, tribunal sources said.

Another issue to be discussed is a claim from Iran

for close to \$12 billion, covering 2,500 contracts for US weapons and services agreed near the end of the Shah's rule.

The United States admits it never completed delivery but disputes the figure.

Some analysts believe the freeing of remaining hostages could also open the way for Washington to lift a ban on the import of Iranian oil, allowing Tehran to pay \$2 billion of outstanding claims from US oil firms in oil rather than cash.

Despite the years of enmity between the two countries, some 1,300 of the 3,839 claims initially filed at the tribunal have been solved, with US claimants receiving \$1.5 billion and Iran getting about \$570 million.

Funds to pay for US claims come mostly from Iranian assets frozen by the United States in 1979 after students seized the American embassy in Tehran.

The tribunal is composed of three judges each from the United States and Iran and three from neutral countries.

Over the years it has been an intriguing meeting ground where legal and cultural traditions sometimes clash and even language is a barrier which must be overcome.

Proceedings have not always been smooth. In 1984, the United States said that two Iranian judges assaulted 69-year-old Swedish colleague Nils Mangard, accusing him of bias. Iran insisted there was no attack but the two Iranian judges resigned.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Rabat expels 2 French activists: The Moroccan authorities have expelled two French women doctors representing a human rights organisation, a diplomatic source said on Wednesday in Rabat.

Doctors Helene Jaffe, president of the French association Pour Les Victimes de la Repression des Exilés - association for victims of the repression of exiles - (AVRE), and Marie-Helene Beaujeu, a member of the same group, were ordered out of the country on Monday when in the southern city of Marrakech.

No official reason was given for the expulsions which follow the expulsion of two women representatives of the London-based human rights group Amnesty International in mid-March.

Al-Bashir to consider release: Gen. Omar Al Bashir, Sudan's military leader, has promised to consider a request by a Sudanese doctors delegation on the release of jailed doctor Dr Mamoun Mohamed Hussein, the official Sudan News Agency (Suna) reported.

The agency, Tuesday, reported that a delegation of senior Sudanese physicians and surgeons called on Gen. Al Bashir and requested the release of Dr Mamoun, leader of the disbanded Sudanese doctors union, who has been sentenced to death by hanging. Dr Mamoun, November last year led a general strike by Sudanese doctors against the government of Gen Omar Al Bashir.

He was arrested along with two other doctors, and sentenced to death for leading an illegal strike against the state. (Kuna)

Libya denies involvement: Libya has again denied that it is involved in battles with Chadian government forces near the Sudanese frontier.

Chad said on Tuesday that its forces attacked a camp of the Libyan-backed Islamic Legion near the border with Sudan on Monday and killed 70 soldiers. But in a statement sent to Reuters in Cyprus on Tuesday night, Tripoli said the fighting was between Chadian troops and dissident members of N'Djamena's armed forces. (Reuters)

14 fundamentalists shot dead: police lay siege to Egyptian village

CAIRO, May 2, (Reuters): Egyptian paramilitary police laid siege to a village occupied by Muslim zealots after a gun battle in which 14 fundamentalists were shot dead, security sources said yesterday.

The sources said the militants threw a hand grenade at police as they closed in on Manshiet Al-Kahk village in the oasis of Fayoum.

Fayoum, 85 km (53 miles) southwest of Cairo, is often the scene of bloody clashes and at least 21 militants have been killed in

fighting over the past few days in Fayoum and Assiut, another fundamentalist stronghold in upper Egypt.

About 100 militants, belonging to a breakaway group of the outlawed Jihad (holy war) group, were involved in the shootout on Monday in which seven policemen were wounded.

The sources said four militants had been detained but at least 80 were thought to have gone to ground in the village, which was surrounded by armed police.

Police went to the village to arrest three brothers accused of killing their father, who had apparently tried to persuade them into giving up their militant activities, the sources added.

"Fayoum is sitting on top of a volcano threatening to erupt," a local weekly warned last month.

President Hosni Mubarak warned militants in a May Day speech yesterday against trying to form "a state within the state" and advised them not to "play with

fire."

"The state's power is stronger than terrorism," he said.

Several Muslim militant groups are seeking the implementation of Sharia (Islamic law) in pro-Western Egypt.

Sources said the group at Manshiet Al Kahk, which calls itself "Al Jihad Al Jadid" (new holy war), was an offshoot of a group led by Fayoum resident Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman.

Israeli officials concerned over growing friction with US

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 2. (AP) — Officials expressed concern yesterday about Israel's growing friction with the United States, which seems from disagreements over Middle East peace policy, Jewish settlements in the occupied lands and US hostages in Lebanon.

Referring to sharp US State Department criticism of Israel for rejecting US proposals for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said, "It has to worry me, and it has to worry all of us."

The State Department, accused right-wing Prime

Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Monday of missing an important opportunity for peace in refusing to agree to US terms for talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

Adding to the strain is Washington's pressure on Israel to stop building Jewish settlements in occupied lands and to free Shiite Muslim prisoners to help with the release of US hostages in Lebanon. Israel has resisted both demands.

Instead, Shamir's caretaker government stepped up settlement construction in recent weeks despite US protests that they are an obstacle to peace.

The Haaretz daily reported yesterday that Shamir agreed to push plans to create settlements approved by previous governments and listed 14 sites under consideration.

US President George Bush made an indirect appeal for a prisoner release, saying he "certainly had no objection" if Israel made such a move as a goodwill gesture.

But Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner said Israel had not received any request for a prisoner release and said "certainly not" when asked if the United

States was pressuring Israel over the issue.

He stressed Israel sought the release of Israelis held by radical Shiite Muslims in Lebanon.

But he and other officials gave no indication they would free abducted Shiite cleric Abdul Karim Obeid or about 200 Arabs, most Lebanese Shiites, held by an Israeli-backed militia in south Lebanon to encourage the release of US hostages.

The rift between the two close allies widened Sunday after Shamir appeared to harden his position, saying "no one can expect us to accept every proposal and every idea of the American secretary."

be what they may be."

In the past, he has only said he needed more time to consider proposals by US Secretary of State James A. Baker III that talks be held in Cairo to discuss Israel's proposals for elections in the occupied lands to choose a Palestinian negotiating team.

Shamir is now trying to form a right-wing government without the centre-left Labour Party, which forced the current political crisis in March when Shamir refused to endorse the Baker proposals. In a government without Labour Shamir would

be under considerable pressure from hawks in his own party and small ultra-rightist factions to drop the election plan.

Arens, a close Shamir ally, insisted yesterday that Shamir would stick to the peace initiative adopted by the Likud-Labour coalition in May 1988.

"You will find that in the policy guidelines (of the new government) it will be written that we have to advance the peace programme of May 1988. And it will be advanced," Arens said in an interview with Israel television.

Baker disputes Israeli charges

Attempt to pressure negotiations

WASHINGTON, May 2. (UPI) — Secretary of State James Baker denied charges yesterday he is attempting to pressure Israel into negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In a testy exchange with Senator Arlen Specter, Republican of Pennsylvania, before a Senate appropriations subcommittee, Baker disputed charges that have also been raised by right-wing Israeli politicians.

Specter, an ardent supporter of Israel, said he believes the PLO has continued to practice terrorism despite the public renunciation of terrorism by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in December 1988. The State Department reported to Congress in March that the PLO appears to be living up to that commitment.

Specter then went on to raise the Israeli charges that Baker's peace plan is really an attempt by the United States to bring the PLO into the Middle East peace process.

"That's not right," Baker interrupted. "I'm sorry to have to correct you, senator, but that's not right."

Baker said Israel had been given assurances and safeguards in the private negotiations that would prevent any unwanted contact with PLO representatives.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, now heading a caretaker Israeli government, has not agreed to Baker's plan for direct talks with Palestinian representatives on the issue of local elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

With his time for questioning up, Specter left the room after the tense exchange, but when his turn came around again, he began by telling Baker, "upon reflection, I accept your statement that it's not US policy to get Israel into negotiations with the PLO."

Baker responded by telling Specter that it is one of the realities of the Middle East that the PLO will have to "acquiesce" before any Palestinians enter into negotiations with the Israeli government.

He was asked by several senators if Israel's annual \$3 billion in US economic and military assistance is conditioned on Israel's willingness to enter into the peace process negotiations.

Baker said the aid to Israel is not conditional as far as the administration is concerned.

Baker also got some unexpected support for his desire to remove congressional "earmarks" from the US aid programme. The earmarks, such as the one designating \$3 billion for Israel, obligate the administration to give that full amount even if the total aid money available is later cut by Congress.

In practice that means some less favoured countries, frequently in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, "zero out," meaning they get not get their allotted funds because no money is left in the aid budget.

"This may be heresy," said subcommittee chairman Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, "but I support you on getting rid of earmarks."

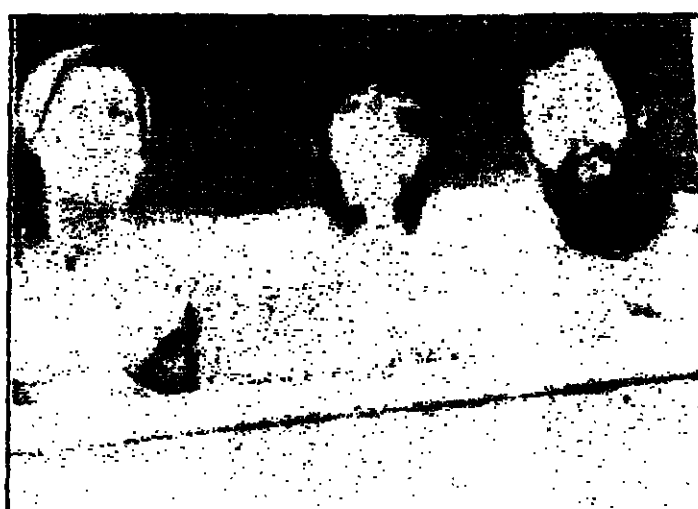
Senator Frank Lautenberg, Democrat of New Jersey, joined in and said he would like to see a "selective" cutting back of the congressional earmarks.

Baker denied the US should use its economic leverage over Israel to press for movement on the Middle East peace front.

Answering pro-Israeli Senator Frank Lautenberg's question he said, "No, as far as I know we have never conditioned our assistance on willingness of the part of Israel to move forward with the peace process."

Plainclothes Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip today as he wrote graffiti on mosque walls hailing Arabs who died fighting Israel, Palestinian witnesses said.

"Go forward martyrs' convoy," two activists of the Palestinian uprising scrawled in the town of Khan Younis before three security men in a commandeered Arab car opened fire, witnesses told Reuters.



Israeli settlers watch

Three Israeli settlers, including a woman (left), watch the street from May 1 from a window in the disputed settlement building in the Old City. A spokesman for the settlers said that only 20 people remained inside the building in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling, and added that a front



company for the settlers is looking to buy additional building in the Christian and Muslim quarters and has funds available. At right, Shmuel Eviatar, a spokesman for the settlers, is surrounded by journalists on May 1. (Reuters wirephotos)

Media attacks trading Syria denies accord

DAMASCUS, May 2. (Reuters) — A report from Baghdad that Arab foes Syria and Iraq have agreed to stop criticizing each other in their media from today were dismissed as untrue in the Syrian capital.

Informed sources in Damascus described the report as totally inaccurate, but declined to elaborate.

An Arab diplomat in Baghdad said the two countries, whose feud has divided the Arab world for decades, had agreed at the request of PLO chief Yasser Arafat to end media attacks on each other.

Syrian newspapers today contained no criticisms of Iraq on the day Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived on a landmark visit to Damascus.

Baghdad newspaper were also unusually free of anti-Syrian comment.

Mubarak's visit, the first to Syria by an Egyptian leader since Damascus bitterly opposed Cairo's peace moves to Israel in 1979, is focused on Arab solidarity.

Diplomats say Mubarak is seeking to reconcile the bitter personal animosity between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Baghdad report of the agreement to halt press attacks came as a surprise two days after Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem told reporters Iraq would have nothing to do with the Syrian president.

Arafat is pressing for an emergency Arab summit on a mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and Baghdad has offered to host the meeting.

Syria and Iraq are ruled by rival wings of the Baath Party which split more than 20 years ago.

Arab leaders have voiced alarm over the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, fearing that it could in the long term dramatically reinforce the Jewish state.

So far about 35,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel this year and officials are predicting the figure will rise to about one million.

Housing loans for Israel debated

WASHINGTON, May 2. (Reuters) — Senate Republican leader Robert Dole yesterday questioned plans to provide \$400 million in housing loan guarantees for Israel, claiming that they would be costly to the United States and amounted to a "blank cheque".

Dole, who has clashed several times in the past with Israel and its supporters, said the United States should press Israel for information on how the housing loans would be used.

He made his comments in the Senate, where critics of Israel and of US aid to the Jewish state is rare.

The loan guarantees, contained in a spending bill approved by the Senate yesterday, are to help Israel raise money to build housing for a flood of new immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Dole said he supported the concept but asked why the usual loan fee for such guarantees had been partially waived for Israel. He said he had received an informal estimate from an official of the agency for international development that the waiver would cost the United States \$25 million to \$30 million.

Dole also cited estimates he said he had received from the congressional budget office that in the long run the guarantees would cost the United States more than \$400 million in US aid and other expenditures.

He also said that because the guarantees contained no conditions, they could be used to support luxury housing in Israel instead of homes for low-income families.

Dole suggested that Israel should be required to remove tariffs on US supplied housing building material.

"This is, in effect, a blank cheque in terms of how the loans can be used in supporting a housing programme," Dole said.

He said Congress should require the administration to seek information about Israel's plans.

Earlier this year, Dole upset Israel's supporters with a suggestion that aid to Israel — the largest US aid recipient at \$3 billion a year — and other major recipients be cut and the money switched to Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

He also criticised a recent congressional resolution asserting that occupied Jerusalem should be Israel's capital, saying his support of it had been a mistake.



Guard of honour

A Syrian guard of honour stands in front of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad (left) and Egypt's President Mubarak at the Syrian airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Summit talks

Klibi for Baghdad

TUNIS, May 2. (Reuters) — Arab League Secretary General Cheddi Klibi left Tunis for Baghdad today to discuss preparations for a proposed Arab summit in the Iraqi capital, a League spokesman said.

The PLO requested the summit last month and Iraq said yesterday President Saddam Hussein welcomed the PLO suggestion that it take place in Baghdad.

At least 15 Arab states, a clear majority of the Arab League's 22 members, have declared support for the summit but they do not include three of the Arab world's most influential countries — Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Diplomats said the prospects for the summit taking place would be cleared after talks in Damascus today between President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Al Assad of Syria.

The PLO wants the summit to deal with the mass influx of Soviet Jews in Israel and the effects on the Arab world of international political changes.

Arafat arrived today in the United Arab Emirates, the latest stop of a tour aimed at gathering support for his call for an emergency Arab summit conference.

Soviet Jews settle in Golan

AMMAN, May 2. (KUNA) — Soviet Jewish emigrants have been resettled in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights in a further escalation of the Israeli settlement drive in the occupied Arab lands regardless of international condemnation.

Israeli Minister of Immigration Yitzhak Peretz was quoted by Israeli television last night as saying that 30 Soviet Jewish families had been resettled in the Golan settlement of Ketserit.

He added that the Jewish settlers there did not wish to announce the arrival of those families fearing that the announcement could endanger flow of other Soviet Jews.

The minister underlined that hundreds of housing units in that settlement were vacant and expected the newcomers to fill them shortly.

Another 300 Soviet Jews in coastal city of Natania, meanwhile, yesterday demonstrated protesting the ministry's delay in settling them.

Stockpiles in Middle East

Moscow worried

DAMASCUS, May 2. (AP) — Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zotov said yesterday the Arab-Israeli conflict and the buildup of weapons in the Middle East would be a top priority at the upcoming superpower summit.

"The situation in the Middle East is dramatic," Zotov told reporters. "There are many weapons stockpiles of the most destructive kind, and much violence, too, and something must be done about it."

Speaking at a news conference two days after President Hafez Al Assad's return from talks in Moscow with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, he reiterated Moscow's support for Syria.

The recent threat by Iraq, another Soviet friend, to use chemical weapons against Israel in the event of an Israeli nuclear attack has added to tension in a region already bristling with advanced weapons.

Zotov said the absence of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement and the buildup of weapons would be a "top priority" issue at the summit at the end of this month between US President George Bush and Gorbachev.

He said Washington and Moscow have conducted "very constructive" contacts on the subject of peace in the Middle East, he did not elaborate.

But he said peace in the Middle East was being held back by "Israeli reservations" to entering into a peace process, and complained that "the United States has not shown enough firmness" with the Israelis "to push matters forward."

Addressing a news conference, Zotov stressed Moscow's continuing commitment to bolster the armed forces of Syria but added:

"It is the general policy of the Soviet Union to reduce the level of military conflict everywhere, including the Middle East, and the emphasis is on a reasonable defensive capability."

But he said Syria has "a certain level of legitimate defence requirements and we are very responsive to this need."

Zotov said that Assad "does not want to stockpile weapons, but he is responsible to his people to achieve peace." Assad has long argued that peace in the Middle East is impossible unless Syria achieves "strategic parity" with Israel.

Assad and his delegation returned from Moscow after concluding an agreement for continuing military aid, with Syrian officials describing the visit as "successful, useful and friendly."

No details of the agreement have been divulged.

Assad himself said in a March 8 speech that "the relationship between Syria and the Soviet Union is as firm as ever."

But the Soviets have been stressing to Assad that he abandon his drive for strategic parity with Israel and have reduced the volume of advanced weapons they have traditionally supplied Damascus, according to Western reports.

The respected London-based Flight International magazine reported last month that Moscow turned down a Syrian request for SA-10 and SA-11 anti-aircraft missiles. When asked about this and similar reports, Zotov did not deny them, but again stressed Moscow's continuing commitment to Syria's security.

Analysts estimate that Syria owes the Soviet Union \$15 billion. Soviet officials in Damascus have said the debt is only \$4 billion.

In his speech in March Assad described the upheaval in Eastern Europe as a windfall for Israel, saying that everywhere in that region, Israel's friends were in the ascendant.

N. Yemen denies clashes reports

Saleh visits Aden

SANAA, May 2. (Agencies) — The North Yemeni President last night denied news reports claiming bloody disturbances had taken place in north of his country.

In a telephone contact with King Hussein of Jordan, President Ali Abdullah Saleh affirmed that situation in his country was perfectly normal, describing such reports as completely baseless.

An official Yemeni source had described the reports in a statement to Yemeni news agency Sabaa as a form of conspiracy and stressed that security and stability were prevailing.

The report coincided with official sources in Aden, capital of South Yemen, saying that a lightning trip by the North Yemeni leader yesterday had sped up the merger plans.

An official statement on Aden's state-run radio said only

that Saleh's talks with the South Yemeni leaders dealt with the "pursuit of the unification measures."

Radio Sanaa reported today that another telephone contact took place last night between Saleh and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Saleh briefed Mubarak on unity steps and emphasised that the unity process was progressing steadily and that nothing had obstructed its realisation.

Sources in Sanaa said by telephone from Bahrain that the clash occurred in the province of Sa'dah, close to the borders with Saudi Arabia.

The sources, insisting on anonymity, insisted it was tribal dispute and that it was quickly contained.

One source said tribes in that region are armed and there could have been casualties, but had no details.

Rival forces shell ferries

Beirut truce breaks

BEIRUT, May 2. (Agencies) — Rival Christian forces today fired on passenger ferries around each other's ports and battled with howitzers and mortars in their 3-month-old power struggle for mastery of Lebanon's Christian enclave.

Police said no casualties were reported in the fighting or the tit-for-tat attacks on the Cypriot ferry, the Sunny Boat, and a Hydrofoil, the Virgin Butterfly, which also operates out of the east Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

A police spokesman said an armed speedboat manned by Lebanese Forces militiamen intercepted the Hydrofoil off the makeshift port of Dbaye, rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's only sea outlet 7 miles (11 km) north of Beirut before dawn.

The spokesman said the militiamen fired warning shots from a 14.5mm four-barrelled machine gun once they determined the Virgin Butterfly was heading for Aoun's port.

"The vessel was not hit, but it sailed back to Larnaca," the spokesman said.

The speedboat crew "did not try to seize the ship. They only wanted to prevent it from docking at Dbaye," he said.

Soon after the Virgin Butterfly was intercepted, Aoun's gunners began shelling the Sunny Boat as it lay in Jounieh, 5 miles (8 km) north of Dbaye waiting to pick up passengers.

The Sunny Boat raced for the open sea as shells exploded in the water around it, the spokesman said. There were no reports that it

was hit.

The Sunny Boat and the Hydrofoil provide the only link to the outside world for the Christians trapped in their enclave, which is ringed by hostile Syrian troops and their mainly Muslim militia allies.

The Lebanese Forces, made up of 6000 fighters and 30,000 reservists, has one gunboat and about 20 speedboats armed with machine guns and rocket launchers.

Aoun's 19,000-man army lost most of its naval force when Geagea's men seized the naval base at Jounieh in February. The general has two crippled gunboats trapped near Dbaye.

Meanwhile rival forces fought with mortars and artillery in east Beirut and mountains to the north today, breaking a four-day truce mediated by the Maronite church.

Troops of Aoun and rival militiamen shelled each other's positions in the Dora and Sin El-Fil areas of east Beirut and the coastal town of Jounieh, 20 km (12 miles) to the north.

The LF-run Voice of Lebanon radio said Aoun's army shelled areas close to Bekrikt, seat of Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Steir, Lebanon's most influential Christian religious authority.

Lebanon switched to summer time putting itself three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time by advancing clocks by an hour. Daylight saving will continue until Sept 30.

Jordan jails Israeli spy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 2. (Reuters) — Jordan has jailed for 15 years an alleged Israeli spy who infiltrated the Jordanian Army, the occupied east Jerusalem Arabic-language daily Al Quds says.

In a report to be published today Al Quds quotes Jordanian security sources as saying that the alleged agent of Israel's Mossad secret service was arrested two months ago.

2 Germans questioned about Rabta fire

ROME, May 2. (AP) — Libya's official news agency said today that two West Germans were being interrogated in connection with the mysterious fire at a Libyan chemical plant in March.

West German companies had helped build the plant, which the United States claims produced poison gas.

Libya says the facility in Rabta, 60 miles southwest of Tripoli, produces pharmaceuticals.

Immediately after the March 15 fire, Libyan leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi had threatened to retaliate against West Germany if its agents had set the blaze. West Germany denied any responsibility.

The Jana news agency identified the Germans as a company executive and a technician for the same firm.

The report, monitored in Rome, was attributed by Jana to "sources at the General People's Committee of Justice."

In West Germany, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said he was checking the report.

The West German embassy in Tripoli, reached by telephone from Rome, said no officials were available for comment.

The United States initially said the March 15 fire caused heavy damage to the plant.

But later news reports said US authorities, after a review of satellite photographs, decided the fire was actually a hoax, apparently an attempt to head off any US military action against the plant. The photos reportedly showed that burn marks were painted on the building.

Marketing council for produce suggested

New vegetable market identical to old

THE present vegetable market in the Shuwaikh area is identical to the market that existed within Kuwait City 30 years ago, according to a Kuwait agricultural engineer, Mohammed Al Firaib.

Further commenting on this scenario, he said that the market is not organised or developed in keeping with the level of other such sectors in Kuwait during the

past 25 years. All that has in fact transpired is that the market has only shifted from one location to another. He added that local consumers are obliged to accept this state of affairs, although they are aware that half of the imported vegetables contain a mixture of grass and other stuffs, including various types of imported fruit which have

already lost their nutritious value before reaching the local markets.

He disclosed that the chairman and members of the municipal council visited the vegetable markets of Paris, Tunis and Amsterdam in 1984 to study organisational methods and work procedures at these markets in order to develop the

modalities of the Kuwait vegetable market.

Firaib pointed out that merchants and local distributors have no interest in selling local agricultural products because they are linked to foreign exporters who pay them fixed commissions and consequently do not work to develop local products.

He recommended that Kuwait Municipality adopt establishing a marketing council for vegetables and fruits as an independent authority subjected directly to the Council of Ministers. The council should represent Kuwait Municipality, Public Authority for Agriculture, Farmers Union and Union of Agricultural Cooperatives Societies.



Nooruddin Bhasaheb, head of the Bohra community in Kuwait pictured with envoy Budhiraja. Photographs by Tanver Faruque



Some of the contestants of the fancy dress contest.



Iqbal Qureshi, Mujibullah and Anwar singing the qawalli number.



Manoranjan: Shashi Malhotra and Arif Qazi (right) in drag for a scene

Festive Eid Milan at IAC

Indians in a holiday mood

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

ENTERTAINMENT was the theme of the Eid Milan party held for Indian Muslims at the IAC Monday night. The atmosphere was reminiscent of Eid back home: fine clothes, fine food and not a care in the world. Children munching chips flitted around the hall, adults chattered — and the singers performed on stage — presenting a medley of songs ranging from popular film music to ghazals; there was order in disorderliness and discipline in disarray.

Hundreds of people who had turned out for the party were there because they wanted to participate rather than witness, or so it seemed. So, like background music Chand Pasha, Anwar, Mujibullah and Iqbal Qureshi belted out melodies while the audiences shared in the joy that is so much part of a festive season. Although the Eid holidays were long over, people seemed to be in a holiday mood.

But when the comedy sketch Manoranjan was presented by Arif Kazi and his troupe, the audience was in stitches. The comic sketch did not have much of a storyline, but the whimsical characters and the impossible situations were jolly good. Never mind, some of the jokes were below the belt; it was all for the sake of a good laugh; and even

Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja took the jests in the right spirit, much to the delight of the audience.

Kazi, a talented performer with a background in dramatics and radio plays, came up with some original ideas for Manoranjan — the dilemma of director who is searching for stars to perform in his film.

Apart from directing, Kazi played several characters ranging from an irritating eunuch to a Madras. Anwar Qadri, an Indian school student, won much applause for mimicking film stars Dilip Kumar, Raaj Kumar and Amitabh Bachchan. Others in the cast were Shashi Malhotra, Nidhi Mahendra, Nandita Sethi, Raman Sethi, Anwar Qadri, Dayal Singh and Waaris Shaikh.

A fancy dress contest was held for children with a large turnout. Both boys and girls wore the traditional Muslim costumes from their states for the contest, and four lucky children won in each category. Winners received their prizes from Mrs Geeta Budhiraja wife of the Indian ambassador.

No celebration is complete without food; participants were invited to a sumptuous meal followed by the traditional dessert — *sewiyian* (noodles cooked in milk and topped with almonds). And thus ended this year's Eid party, the first Indian Muslims Eid gathering of this magnitude. Will there be another in July — for Eid Al Adha?

Aussies may vaccinate sheep for Saudis

CANBERRA, May 2. (Reuters): Australia may vaccinate millions of sheep against a form of cold sore before sending them to Saudi Arabia, which has turned away 150,000 live sheep because of the infection in the past few weeks.

Bruce Standen, managing director of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC), told reporters today that vaccination was being considered.

"You could go a long way to minimise the incidence. But it is very much like the common cold, the way it is passed on."

Saudi Arabia rejected the sheep because they had scabby mouth, a cold infection.

Surprise

Rejection of three shiploads of sheep surprised exporters who had believed problems over the trade, worth \$125 million (\$93 million) a year to Australia, were ended, industry sources said.

Australia suspended annual shipments of 3.5 million live sheep to Saudi Arabia for four months last year following Saudi claims they bore Blue Tongue and Sheep Pox diseases. Australia says these diseases are not in its commercial flocks.

Saudi Arabia accepted some 500,000 live sheep under new AMLC export rules which enabled trade to resume on December 21.

The AMLC said exporters were not being asked to suspend shipments to Saudi Arabia. The Australian government is working vigorously through diplomatic channels to resolve the latest problem, a government spokesman said.

Age limit exceptions allowed in schools

THE assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Private Education Dr Yacoub Al Sharrar has said that the ministry agreed to make exceptions to admit some children in Arab private kindergartens and primary schools who do not meet with age limitations.

He added that the ministry will exempt children who are more than five years, 4 months and 15 days (at the date of the new school year, next September). These children can be admitted in the first class of primary schools provided they studied at least for one year in a kindergarten. The private schools can admit only children who are more than five years and seven months old if they did not study in a kindergarten. The ministry limits the age of admission in the first class of kindergarten to 3 years and 6 months and in second class to 4 years and 6 months, he said.

Exams

On the other hand, Sharrar pointed out that his department is preparing for the final exams that will be held at private schools in co-operation with Exams and Students Affairs Department of the ministry. He added that the ministry will use eight government schools to hold Secondary School Certificate's Exams this year for pupils of private schools. The Council of Ministers is still studying the distribution of some land allotments to citizens to build private schools to meet the increasing number of pupils in these schools. These schools will be built in different areas because 80 per cent of private schools are located in Jabriya, Nagra, Hawalli and Salmiya which causes traffic jams, the official said.

The ministry agreed on one application among eight applications submitted by citizens to get licences to open private schools for the first time. He added that this application is the only one that meets with conditions. He expected that five new buildings of private schools will be received and start working as from next scholastic year. He said that the present administrative and technical charters of private education sector need comprehensive study and evaluation due to the latest developments during last few years. He denied that private schools suffer from a shortage of teachers.

Daily calls for solidarity

ABU DHABI, May 2. (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan today called for Arab solidarity, saying in part: "The challenges facing the Arab nation should prompt us to act quickly to forge a strategy to face them."

"After the holding of an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad is confirmed, it is necessary that during the period before the summit is convened later this month that all issues are reviewed before they are included in the summit agenda."

"It is important that intensive consultations among foreign ministers and senior officials begin in order to prepare a draft for the summit resolutions that will be approved by all Arab countries."

"There is no doubt the Arab situation has greatly improved recently as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will pay his first visit to Damascus in more than 10 years at a time when there are reports about an Egyptian mediation to normalise ties between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

"It is certain all these moves will lead to a real Arab solidarity that will enable us to confront all challenges foremost of which are the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine."

Shrimp ban

Strict action against violators

THE seasonal ban on shrimp fishing went into effect as of Monday according to the director of fish resources department at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, Adnan Al Rushoud.

Commenting on the authority's commitment to strictly adhere to the ban, the official said strict action will be taken against violators, including confiscating of licences either for a prescribed period or in certain circumstances permanently. He appealed to all fishermen to abide by the decision.

Rushoud disclosed that the authority has begun paying the annual subsidisation to fishermen who have licensed fishing boats. The authority pays KD500 for each boat — up to a maximum of five boats for each fisherman.

On the efficacy of imposing the ban, the official said that it has achieved phenomenal results as the shrimp catch was plentiful last year and expressed the hope that the years to follow will also provide a rich catch and prices will be well within the range of consumers.

476,774 Kuwaitis in private sector

ACCORDING to a statistical report issued by the Central Statistical Office at the Planning Ministry within the framework of its annual statistical group, the number of Kuwaitis operating within the private sector reached 476,774 last year, of whom 18,432 working in the agricultural and hunting fields, 47,328 in the field of conversion industries, 110,970 in the construction field, 209,116 in trading, restaurant and hotels, 23,662 in field of transport, storing and communications and 12,013 in the services sector.

The report reveals that 44,712 of these people occupy scientific and technical positions, 16,381 directors, administrators and works managers, 38,045 clerks and executives, 34,845 salesmen, 45,397 service operators, 9619 in agriculture, animal husbandry and hunting, while the workers in the production sector or ordinary workers reach 287,775.

The report said that the total number of employees occupying assistant technical positions is 1,7838, of whom 1,665 are Kuwaitis and 1,6173 non.

The study report also mentioned that the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry issued 1,175 work permits to small professionals, 1,134 to free and handicraft businessmen, while 81,657 were entry visas, 86,075 work permits for the first time, 10,526 renewals, 10,923 cancellation and transfer of sponsorship and 21,773 final cancellation.

The report also said that a total of 4,521 work permits were issued in 1988 to small businessmen, 89,228 work permits, 61,629 recruitment for the first time, 148,410 renewals, 64,353 cancellation and transfer and 32,081 final cancellation.

Overlapping in municipal affairs under study: Ali

Decentralisation plan still on

THE acting director-general of Kuwait Municipality Sheikh Jaber Al Ali was quoted as saying that the municipality is striving to sort out existing overlapping between the municipality and the other authorities in the country.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the municipality for the past two years has been studying these overlapping issues and expanded meetings were being held in this connection with the authorities concerned including the Ministries of Public Health, Commerce and Industry, Finance and National Housing Authority (NHA). These meetings had resulted in developing a scheme aimed at streamlining functions between the municipalities and other authorities.

Replying to a question over the disparity in the height of buildings in the commercial markets, the official said that the municipality is planning to avoid such infringements. According to the new procedures no building will be licensed unless its owners abide by the height of the other buildings adjacent to his.

Decentralisation

Speaking of the setting up of municipalities at the governorates, the official said that this idea was an old one and fell within the municipality policy of decentralisation system.

He added that this issue had been studied several times and eventually a draft bill in this connection was prepared and is currently under discussion by the authorities concerned.

The setting up of the municipalities could be deemed as a political decision to be undertaken by all the authorities concerned. He added that the municipality had made significant progress in the field of administrative decentralisation, clarifying that such decentralisation could be represented by division of the services and its distribution on the administrative basis of the relevant governorates.

The municipality is currently applying a comprehensive system towards power authorisation, referring that this system including the authorising of power given by the minister, the municipality's director-general, the assistant director-general and the chief engineers, adding that this system had been designed to enable the officials concerned to settle citizens transactions.

Meanwhile, the official has disclosed that the municipality had finalised a study in respect of collective transport system, referring that the said study had been set up in co-operation with the traffic department, the Ministry of Public Works and Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC).

He added that the study which aims at obviating traffic congestion has suggested novel systems for collective transport. The first is based on buses for realising this objective, while the second is based on express trains to be based on railways networks covering all the areas of the country.

He added, however the sugges-

ted systems for collective transport will be debated by the Municipality Affairs Committee which shall select the appropriate system.

Speaking of moving some industries from Shuwaikh Industrial Area, the official said that moving some dangerous industries based at Shuwaikh Industrial Area are being included in the municipality plan for developing the area in order to avoid pollution.

He added that the industries to be moved will include the detergent plant and batteries plant, adding that the asbestos plant has already been moved. The ministry is studying the alternatives for the current industrial areas, the official said.

Speaking of the national resorts project, the official said that the municipality had expropriated all the lands that might be affected by the setting up of Jahra resort. The design works of the resort are currently underway and will be submitted to the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources.

Replying to a question over the commercial areas to be set up in the governorates, the official said according to the recommendations based on the country's master plan, several administrative and commercial centres were being devoted at Fintas, Jahra, Salmiya, Fahab, Hawalli, Mishref, Salabikhat, Khaitan and Farwaniya. The local consulting bureaux will prepare the relevant designs for these centres.



Non-commissioned officers

The Institute of non-commissioned officers at the Police Academy held a ceremony on the occasion of closing the 4th training course on patrol activities. The ceremony was attended by assistant director of the institute Lt Col Bader Al Eidan. 14 non-commissioned officers graduated.

Arabsat facility to be extended

Channels for hire

THE Director of International Network Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Communication Adel Al Ibrahim was quoted as saying that the facility could be extended for another three years.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that such an extension will become effective as of 1993, adding that the relevant decision has been taken in light of increasing applications for hiring Arabsat channels which had been received from several countries including India which had hired 12 channels so far.

He disclosed that the first phase of the Arabsat project cost about \$23 billion, and added that initially the project had been discussed during the Arab ministers of information meeting held in Tunisia in 1967. Till that date, he added, the Arab countries had not completed its earth stations.

He said that Arabsat has not been utilised entirely after its immediate launch by the Arab information ministries, but for the time being all the Arab earth station plans were being accomplished except that of Egypt which had been postponed in the wake of severing Arab ties with Egypt in 1979 and Lebanon due to civil war there.

Meanwhile, the official said that Arabsat has been designed to print any newspaper, expressing regret that some Arab newspapers are printed in foreign countries such as UK.

On the other hand, the official called on the Arab information ministries to help upgrade Arabsat programmes, referring that the relevant Arab institutions are required to prepare joint Arab programmes.

R&D dept set up at KU: Rasha

THE university vice-rector for social service and information Dr Rasha Hmoud Al Sabah has said that the Department of Research, Development and Follow-up has been constructed within the framework of measures aimed at supporting the ongoing administrative development process.

She told a local daily that the general purpose for the construction of the department is to optimise the level of administrative performance for the various departments. It is also intended to provide high-quality services besides the creation of warm social atmosphere at work to nourish the sense of initiative, creativity and development among workers to boost their positions.

Progress

She added that work at the department is progressing according to prescribed scientific criteria. Results of a special questionnaire have been used to determine the reasons for the low administrative performance level. On this basis necessary programmes will be developed and executed by specialists in the academic field.

The department will participate in the preparation of special training programmes according to work requirements, taking into consideration the vital factors of the right working environment in the administrative development, Sabah said.

Bahrain witnesses increase in number of tourists

BAHRAIN witnessed a significant influx of tourists during the Eid Al Fitr holiday. Bahraini based Al Ayyam Newspaper quoted an official at the Bahraini Tourism and Archaeology Department as saying.

He clarified that Bahrain's hotels witnessed a reservation percentage of 100 per cent, while furnished flats had been occupied at a percentage ranging between 95 per cent to

100 per cent during the same period.

Imports

He attributed the touristic influx phenomenon during the Eid holiday to the success realised by Bahrain in the tourism field particularly the programmes offered by the country's touristic corporations. He added that the Saudi Arabian citizens constituted the majority among tourists

followed by Kuwaitis, Qataris, British and Americans.

He clarified that the hotel reservation percentage dropped during the holy month of Ramadan and reached up to 30 per cent. A significant increase was seen by the end of the holy month which reached a peak during the second day of Eid Al Fitr.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's official statistics have shown

that imports of fresh milk had remarkably increased during the year of 1989 compared to 1988.

It was expected that the imported quantities of milk will increase in the future in view of the increase in local consumption, although the local output of fresh milk had increased.

The statistics revealed that the quantity of imported milk

in Bahrain had amounted to 28,545 tonnes in 1989 with a total value of Bdl.177 million with an increase of 127 per cent in the quantity and 156 per cent of the total value compared to 1988.

It added that Saudi Arabia was the major exporter of fresh milk to Bahrain with 62 per cent of the country's imports, followed by Kuwait whose exports represent 36

per cent of Bahrain milk imports and then Holland which exports 2 per cent of the country's requirements of fresh milk.

It added that imported fresh milk quantities had increased to 12.7 per cent during 1989 compared to 7 per cent in 1988, referring that national output had amounted to 19,650 tonnes in 1989 compared with about 17,964 tonnes in 1988.

30m jobs for Arab youth by 2000

Debt crisis worrying

STUDIES conducted on the Arab arena confirm that given certain parameters, Arab states could provide 30 million work opportunities for Arab youth by the end of this century.

Discussing this issue, the assistant director general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Dr. Ghaleb Barakat said that studies on the issue attest to the fact that these large job opportunities

could not be realised without having large investments in new projects and could not be carried out while Arab countries are suffering from debts and rationalising expenditures.

Contradictions

The official said that the ILO is very concerned on the international debt crisis, because debts prevent countries from carrying out new projects or the infusion of

funds that are essential to provide jobs to workers in the Third World.

He further said that the International Monetary Fund looks at the economic situation in any country from the economic position only and pays no heed to social circumstances which leads to contradictions in views between the fund and debtor countries. In this context, he said that the ILO held an important conference with international financial establish-

ments and the IMF and proposed several recommendations to solve this problem.

Barakat pointed out that the ILO is the only international organisation that has been working towards uplifting the plight of Palestinian workers in the Arab occupied territories for the past 12 years by deputing its delegations to witness firsthand their working conditions with the aim of focussing attention to their rights and social conditions.

Trade visit

Canadian delegation to visit Gulf states

A MAJOR Canadian trade delegation will be visiting the Gulf from May 11-17, 1990, led by Lambert Toupin, chairman and Samir Zalzal, president and vice-chairman of the Canada Arab Business Council (CABC). The 25 member delegation is the largest ever organised by the CABC to visit the Gulf.

The Canada Arab Business Council is the leading Canadian private sector association with a focus on promoting trade and investment with Arab countries. The council's fundamental objective is to assist Canadian companies seeking to market their goods, services and know-how in the Middle East. At the same time, the council endeavours to ensure that Arab business and government officials acquire a better understanding of Canadian capabilities and investment opportunities.

The members of the CABC are in the forefront of Canadian business efforts to develop stronger trading links between Canada and the Arab world and represent an impressive cross section of the Canadian business community.

The mission will be visiting Egypt, Iraq, and Kuwait, as well as Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The dates for the Gulf are as follows:

Kuwait: May 11-13; Abu Dhabi: May 13-15; Dubai: May 15-17.

The programme is being organised to allow for individual business meetings as well as an opportunity to meet with chambers of commerce and key government decision makers.

While many of the companies recruited for the mission are seasoned exporters to the region with well developed local contacts, others will be making their first exploratory visit and seeking local representation.

The programme is organised in conjunction with Canada's Department of External Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian embassy in Kuwait. For further information about the mission, please contact the Canadian embassy, P.O. Box 25281, Safat 13113, Kuwait. Tel. (965) 256-3025, Tlx: 23549 Mcan K1. Fax: (965) 256 4167.

Aviation talks

KUWAIT, May 2. (Kuna): Director General of Kuwait's Civil Aviation Department Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah flew to Cairo today for talks with Egyptian officials on how to streamline air transport between the two countries.

In the three-day talks, Sheikh Jaber and Egyptian aviation officials will seek to amend a previous agreement so as to enable national carriers of both countries to cope with the rising demand of air passengers between Cairo and Kuwait.



Tapati Ray and Sharfata in traditional silk and gold brocade shalwar kameez.



Rich silk and chiffon embroidered in contrast colours. The show saw an excellent variety of saris.



Cowl pants and short tops in cool pastel silk and satin.



Dresses in silk draped from the shoulder to the hip

Fashion show with a difference

By Nirmala Janssen
Arab Times staff

EXPECTATIONS at the Indian Arts Circle Tuesday night were high. After the smashing success Sunday night of the beauty contest and fashion show, people eagerly awaited the beginning of yet another fashion show by Tapati Ray.

The evening began well with children of various private classical dance schools exhibiting their prowess and doing a super job. The dancers exhibited enthusiasm and a sense of dedication to their art.

Range

Tapati Ray's models, unfortunately, were so wooden and expressionless that many in the audience wondered if they were dragged into the show against their will.

20 models exhibited a wonderful range of saris and shalwar kameezes in the tradition of the various states of India. Each garment showed off the rich silks cottons and embroidery of most of India's 26 states. The section exhibiting dresses however, was reminiscent of the late sixties.

The background music of the fashion show jarred the nerves as the audience had already had their fill of Carnatic Music for one and a half hour when the children danced and more Hindustani Classical Music didn't go down too well.

Also every stage entry by the models dragged on forever as if they were buying time to give the other models a chance to dress.

Tapati could have taken her cue from Gayatri and presented her rich selection of garments to a faster beat with a livelier set of models. It must have taken Tapati a lot of effort to put the show together, especially as very short notice, but it was unfortunate that most of the audience did not see this effort in full, most left long before the show ended.

Arafat in UAE to discuss Arab summit

Backing of 15 countries

ABU DHABI, May 2. (Kuna): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met with UAE President Sheikh Sayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayyan in Al Ain today for talks expected to centre on Palestine's call for an emergency Arab Summit Conference.

Palestinian sources here told Kuna Arafat will brief the UAE president on his recent meetings with several Arab heads of state whom he talked to during his current tour.

Support

Palestine called for a summit to discuss the perils of the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and the snags blocking the Mideast peace process.

In his current marathon tour, the Palestinian leader has won the backing of 15 Arab countries for the summit which is enough for a quorum for the summit which is expected to be held in Baghdad.

The recent Israeli threats against Iraq and the Western anti-Iraqi campaign that accompanied them would also be a key summit agenda item.

Arafat has also urged Syrian

President Hafez Al Assad to take part in an emergency meeting.

"Efforts are under way to patch up differences between Iraq and Syria and I hope... Assad will participate in the Arab summit," the Emirates News Agency Wam quoted Arafat as saying on arrival in Abu Dhabi.

Syria and Iraq are ruled by rival wings of the Arab Baath Party that have been at odds for some 20 years.

Arafat has been touring Arab capitals to drum up support for a summit this month to discuss the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and other regional issues.

Threat

The PLO leader did not elaborate on the efforts to reconcile Syria and Iraq, but Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Damascus today and was expected to raise the issue.

Arafat said all Arab states on his itinerary — including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Sudan, Libya, North Yemen, Iraq, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates — have said they would back the proposed summit in Baghdad.

Meanwhile a United Arab

Emirates daily today stressed the need for closing Arab ranks to face increasing Israeli threats against Middle East peace initiatives.

"The Arabs can hope to succeed in their endeavour for a comprehensive and just peace only if they are able to act in concert," the Dubai-based English language Daily Khaleej Times said.

Noting the Israeli hardliner Yitzhak Shamir's rejection of the Baker plan, the paper added "If the Shamir clique is allowed to get away with its latest conspiracy against the Palestinians, against the Arab nation as a whole, and indeed against peace, the Middle East will remain in turmoil for a long time to come."

"The settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab lands and the Zionist-Imperialist campaign against Iraq form part of the same anti-Arab gameplan."

"It is just right in the circumstances that the Arabs should close their ranks and mount a joint diplomatic offensive in the world capitals to increase pressure on Israel to take the path of peace," it said.

Islamic exhibition inaugurated

KUWAIT, May 2. (Kuna): Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad yesterday evening inaugurated an exhibition of a rare collection of Islamic art objects from the Hermitage Museum of Leningrad in the Soviet Union.

In a statement to Kuna, following the inaugural ceremony, Sheikh Jaber expressed happiness over watching the rare collection of Islamic art here and described the exhibition as "a distinguished cultural event."

He said the objects on display in co-operation with Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah (Islamic Heritage House) are of great historical value and have drawn the attention of historians and artists.

The information minister hoped that Kuwait would host further exhibitions of such high cultural significance.

The one-month exhibition will be open to the public as of today and arrangements for it have been the fruit of intensive efforts by the director of the house, Sheikhha Hissa Sabah Al Salem.

On the other hand, a collection of objects of Islamic art from Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah will be on display at the Hermitage next July.

Anti-smoking law supported by some

Reverse reaction, say others

smoking." He said that a law if imposed will harm the personal freedom of smokers and he proposed that awareness is the best solution. The man stressed that the ban, if introduced, would generate reverse action and would certainly find more people willing to smoke and more smokers willing to smoke in no-smoking area. He praised the measure adopted by the co-operative societies not to sell cigarettes to teenagers under 18 years. He emphasised that the solution for this problem lies in launching awareness campaigns to at least make parents stop smoking in front of their children.

Another man wished it could be applied in Kuwait. He said that he is an occasional smoker but added that if a law banning smoking in public places is applied in Kuwait it would end up like the cleanliness law. He said that although the law is needed particularly in hospitals, service centres, restaurants and

others, it is difficult to apply. A non-smoker totally supported the imposition of a no-smoking law in public places. He said it is a golden opportunity for smokers willing to get rid of this bad habit. He added a law of this kind would help non-smokers also rid themselves of the hazards of cigarettes. He said that he does not like a smoker to sit near him stressing that if the law is applied people would abide by it and stop smoking.

Others who spoke on the issue stressed that a law of this kind is certainly a civilised measure. They added that banning smokers from smoking in public places, specially crowded ones will certainly please non-smokers and reduce health hazards against them. Even chain smokers who said they can't kick the habit supported the idea of banning smoking in some places like hospitals. They said that personal freedom in smoking and other work should be protected as long as it does not harm others.

MOST people agree that a law banning smoking in some areas in Kuwait would certainly relieve them from smoking hazards. At the same time, however, they admitted that enforcing such a law was too difficult. Smokers and non-smokers alike agreed that banning smoking in some public places is healthy and a wise action, but they also realise it would restrict the personal freedom of smokers. The issue of banning smoking in some public places, buses and some other areas has been a controversial issue with some people totally opposing it.

Anti-smoking campaigners want that a ban of smoking in public places should be enforced by law. Smokers on the other hand reject the idea claiming it would affect personal freedom in a free country.

Imposition

A non-smoking man said it is difficult to impose such a law in Kuwait simply because most people "relieve themselves of psychological pressures by



Work is underway on making ballot boxes for the upcoming elections on June 10.

40 more to contest

(Continued from Page 1)

the Council of Ministers and other government bodies.

Sources added that the Interim National Council will be using the premises of the National Assembly currently used as temporary quarters for the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers, along with other organizations using the building, will move to Bayan Palace within two weeks. Election circles are speculating the candidature of Finance Minister Jasssem Mohamed Al Khorafi, for the Interim National Council.

According to sources, Khorafi, the former parliament member, is hoping for chairmanship of the council to ease his wins the elections.

Following are the names of the candidates who registered on the third day:

1st constituency — Sharq Hashim Mohamed Ali

4th constituency — Da'ya Mohamed Ali Al Jarfi

5th constituency — Qadisiya Sami Ahmed Al Maikhaiseem

8th constituency — Hawalli Mohamed Jasssem Al Omar

9th constituency — Rawda Abdul Aziz Fahed Al Massa'ed Abdulatif Dewoud Al Khamees Ahmed Khalaf Bou Rashed

10th constituency — Adaliya Hamad Ibrahim Al Toowajri

11th constituency — Khaldiya Hindi Faraj Al Hindi Mohamed Mubarak Al Omani Salman Sultan Al Salem Bader Naser Al Aslawi

14th constituency — Abraq Khaithan Naser Santan Al Otaibi

15th constituency — Subahiya Naser Saqer Al Saqer

24th constituency — Fahahel Obaid Salbi Al Otaibi Hadi Tamer Al Azemi Abdulla Hamad Baddah Salem Aved Al Azemi Abdulla Mohamed Al Ajmi Laif Khalaf Al Otaibi Faisal Saoud Al Dabous Naser Fahed Al Azemi

25th constituency — Om Al Haiman Ayed Aloush Al Azemi Abdulla Naser Al Azemi

Turkish minister in Qatar

NICOSIA, May 2. (Reuters): Turkish Industry and Commerce Minister Sukru Yurur arrived in Qatar on a three-day visit to discuss setting up joint industrial projects.

The Qatari News Agency quoted Yurur as saying on arrival yesterday night that Turkey wanted good relations with Arab and Islamic states.

Yurur's talks with officials will cover co-operation in various fields including investment opportunities.

Qatar said in March it would spend 845 million riyals (\$232 million) during fiscal year 1990/91 which started in April to develop its giant North Field gas project.

May Queen ball 1990 on May 10

GOAN WELFARE SOCIETY brings to you this summer's May Queen Ball with a new tradition. Having the old and young at heart, the organisers have planned this popular social event with the happy combination of traditional and modern music and dance, to cater to every discerning taste. Jiving, ballroom, novelty and spot dance competition to the tune of Top Ranks will surely fire the champion in you while the lucky draw will keep your stars on course with an airline ticket to Europe by Bulgarian Airlines and another to Goa by Air-India. The crowning moments of the May Queen 1990 will travel sky high with another airline ticket surprise. The runners-up have compliments too. Sumptuous buffet and the ambience provided by the Mesilah Beach Hotel is an added assurance to the success of this social event.

For reservations contact: Joe (Tel. 4881387), Cajetan (Tel. 5618971), Braz (Tel. 4763674), Neveston (Tel. 5637726). Remember your date is on the 10th of May (at 9.00 pm) at Mesilah Beach Hotel to the tune of the Top Ranks.



New hotels for Abou Nawas, Tunis

Abou Nawas Hotels Tunis, a sister company of Kuwait Hotels Company announced the signature of two management hotel contracts.

The first contract was concluded with Mohamed Kisbi, chairman and managing director of Societe Tounseme El Congres for a 4 star deluxe hotel with 650 beds, located in Kennedy Park, next to the Congress Hall. Expected opening is by next June. The contract is for a period of 25 years.

The second contract was signed with Mokhtar Latiri, chairman and managing director of Societe Soussse Centre. It concerns the management of Abou Nawas Boujaafar, a four star hotel with 500 beds, located between Bourguiba Avenue and Boujaafar Avenue in Soussse.



The property is expected to open in the beginning of next year.

This second contract has been concluded for a period of 10 years. The ceremony of contract signing when attended by Mohamed Jegham, minister of tourism, Khouini, governor of Tunis, other important persons included executives of concerned companies.

With its two new units, Abou Nawas Hotels has now 13 properties (6,700 beds) under management of which 12 in Tunisia and one at Sidi Fredj in Algeria. Picture (left) shows Mohamed Jegham, minister of tourism; Khouini governor of Tunis and other VIPs.

Photo (right) shows Ahmed Al Ibrahim, chairman and managing director of Societe Abou Nawas de Gestion Touristique concluding the two management hotel contracts.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

FORTUNE is not on the side of the faint hearted — Sophocles, Greek dramatist (about 496 BC - 406 BC).

Past haunting him Iliescu may be jettisoned

BUCHAREST, (Reuter): Romania's interim government may be forced to jettison President Ion Iliescu over his links with communism even if it wins a thumping majority in next month's elections, according to Western diplomats in Bucharest.

They believe the ruling National Salvation Front government made a crucial tactical error by opting for a presidential system when it took power in last December's revolution.

It compounded the error, they say, by selecting as president a man linked — albeit in the distant past — with the tyrannical regime of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

At a non-stop demonstration in Bucharest's University Square, now in its eighth day, the constant chant is "Jos (down with) Iliescu." Protesters wear lapel badges showing a grinning Iliescu side by side with Ceausescu.

Protest

The picture, taken during a 1971 visit to North Korea, has become a symbol of anti-government protest from Timisoara in the west to the Black Sea port of Constanta in the east.

"Iliescu is Romania's bogeyman and he knows it," one diplomat said.

"He is an intelligent man with sincere intentions about transferring the country to a Western-style democracy. But he must realise that his opponents will not stop demonstrating even if he wins the May 20 elections with a huge majority."

"The fact is that he would not be able to guarantee stability in Romania when a significant slice of the population, including large numbers of the intelligentsia, reject him outright because of his communist past."

Six weeks ago anti-Iliescu factions formalised their opposition with the Timisoara Proclamation, which calls for ban to prevent former communist activists from running for government office for the next three elections, which should be at least 10 years.

Law

The Bucharest demonstrators say they will not leave University Square until parliament has passed the Timisoara Proclamation into law.

Although he publicly shrugs off the latest wave of anti-Iliescu mania as a tedious aberration, the president is clearly embarrassed by what he sees as an opposition conspiracy to discredit him.

At a meeting on Friday with journalists, Iliescu said he believed the protesters would become bored and go away.

But he became angry when a Romanian reporter implied that the government would eventually use force to break up the University Square demonstration, which is blocking a busy city street.

He said security forces would not be deployed and declared: "I would like to know what the police in West Germany or France would have done if a main thoroughfare in the capital had been blocked for six days by demonstrators."

Diplomats say Iliescu must also be feeling particularly

aggravated by the irony of charges that he was linked to Ceausescu since the dictator unceremoniously dumped him as a communist official 15 years ago for showing dissent.

"Iliescu is an intellectual and it is highly unlikely that he was in any way influenced by the philistine views of Ceausescu," the diplomat said.

Dominating

Even hard-core demonstrators questioned in University Square concede that Iliescu has good intentions. They simply refuse to accept another single dominating figure as leader after 25 horrendous years of Ceausescu.

One protester, a middle-aged graduate engineer, said: "There would have been no dissent if the country had been run by a committee prior to the elections."



Ion Iliescu

They mistake was imposing a president on us before we had cast our votes. How can the elections be fair when the opposition has had only four months to organise itself?"

Most diplomats and Romanian commentators believe the National Salvation Front will win a comfortable majority in next month's polls.

But can Iliescu remain as national leader if the demonstrations calling for his downfall continue unabated after May 20?

"Assuming that the opposition to Iliescu continues, the Front will have to decide whether it can keep him as a national leader or ask him to stand down for the sake of achieving stability," said one diplomat.

One of the slogans in University Square sums up the protesters' attitude. It reads "Jos claitia Rosie", which roughly translates to "Down with the red pancake." It means that when you flip a communist into the air he remains a communist when he lands on the other side.

Or as another diplomat put it: "Iliescu may be a good man, but he is a neo-communist. How can a 57-year-old man re-invent himself?"

House supports Jerusalem as Israel's capital

Mideast resolution stirs trouble

WASHINGTON, (UPI): A few voices of reason and responsibility were heard last week when the House took up the resolution declaring support for occupied Jerusalem's status as capital of Israel, but they were overwhelmed by the majority's inclination to act like a herd of sheep.

Never mind that they had been warned of the trouble the resolution already was causing in the Middle East. The House of Representatives would not be denied its opportunity to meddle.

The Senate, without paying a lot of attention to what it was doing, adopted a similar resolution in March. Shortly afterward, Senate Republican leader Robert Dole made a quick tour of the Middle East where he was surprised to find how angry the Arabs were about the resolution.

Wrong

When he returned, Dole made the remarkable admission that he had been wrong to support the resolution and he urged the Senate to more carefully consider its actions in the future.

The House was well aware of the controversy that swirled around the resolution and the warnings about the impact it could have on Mideast peace efforts. The leadership could have discreetly shelved the resolution, as is done with so many other measures, but instead it was brought up for a vote.

During debate on the resolution, a few members tried to make the House face the reality of what it was doing.

Representative David Obey, Democrat-Wisconsin, who personally supports occupied Jerusalem as the capital, said the House should be quiet on the issue.

"We are not always required to institutionally and collectively voice every opinion we have ... especially when the voicing of that opinion at an inopportune moment can do more harm than good."

"No one's interest is served by unnecessarily inflaming the dialogue at this moment, not Israel's, not America's, not anyone else's," Obey said.

Representative David Bonior, Democrat-Michigan, warned that the resolution was "untimely" and "will upset an already precarious situation in the Middle East."

And he noted the measure came up amid reports that the Israeli government, contrary to its pledges, was secretly aiding settlements in the Christian sector of occupied Jerusalem.

"Given the recent events in Jerusalem, this resolution will be seen as an affront to the Arab community. ... it will undermine the efforts of those

AT A GUERRILLA CAMP IN PERU...



in the Arab community who are trying so hard to build support (for US peace proposals)," Bonior said.

House Republican leader Robert Michel of Illinois also said it was a mistake to bring up the resolution.

Unfortunately, Michel could not bring himself to vote against the measure, but he conceded that "if we really want to help Israel, and help the cause of peace in the Middle East, this is not a particularly good way to go about it."

Passage of the resolution was not in doubt, however, and it was adopted on a vote of 378-34.

The response was immediate in the Middle East where warnings were issued by Islamic leaders that the resolution could endanger the hoped-for release

of American hostages.

At the White House, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater warned of "unintended consequences" of such resolutions and said Congress "needs to consider their resolutions more seriously than in the past."

House rules provide generous opportunities for members to express their opinions — one-minute speeches at the start of the day, hour-long speeches at the end, and all on television for viewers back in the home district.

But that is not enough and the lawmakers insist on adopting resolutions telling other people and governments what to do. Such measures rarely offer constructive proposals for solving international problems. More often than not they just aggravate and alienate one or more of the parties involved.

Truth on Katyn victims demanded

'Stalin ordered the murders'

WARSAW, (Reuter): Mirosław Rubas was six when Soviet NKVD secret police came and took his father away. More than 50 years later, Rubas may finally learn where he was taken and how he died.

Moscow admitted in April that Stalin's NKVD murdered thousands of captured Polish officers during World War II.

But Rubas, like many members of the Federation of Katyn Families to which he belongs, still wants to know what really happened after that night in 1939. "Three NKVD men with guns, in civilian clothes, came to our house. My mother was crying. They said they were only taking him for a few minutes and he'd come back. I was a child and I believed them. I didn't cry," Rubas remembered.

Searched

"My mother searched through the Red Cross in Poland and Geneva, and we received a letter saying they couldn't find him anywhere. I think he died in Ostaszkov, but I don't know for sure."

Ostaszkov was one of three Soviet prison camps to which 15,000 captured Polish officers were sent after Stalin and Hitler carved up Poland in 1939. Some 11,000 were never heard of again.

The bodies of the remaining 4,000 were found by invading Nazi Germans in April 1943 in mass graves at Katyn forest in the western Soviet Union.

Each had been shot in the back of the head. A few also had bayonet wounds, and some had sawdust stuffed in their mouths to prevent them shouting out. Many of them had their hands tied behind their backs.

The Katyn families believe that documents handed to President Wojciech Jaruzelski last month by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev may shed further light on the killings.

Died

Many would like to know the date and place where their relatives died. They want the bodies of the missing victims to be found and given a decent burial, and their graves to become place of pilgrimage.

Katyn was a taboo subject in Poland for many years, and some were jailed for "anti-Soviet propaganda" for blaming the killings on Moscow. When the families' federation was founded in 1988, most newspapers refused to give it publicity.

Now its numbers are growing all the time. Some 50 new members enrolled at the first meeting after the Soviet admission last month.

"All the people gathered here want to know more. All of us are looking for people with links or scraps of news about other prisoners," said Katarzyna Piskorska, whose father Tomasz was held at the Soviet camp of Starobielsk.

The Katyn massacre, which Poles consider one of the greatest unpunished crimes of World War II, overshadowed relations between Poland and the Soviet Union for half a century. Until last month, Moscow had pinned the blame on the Nazis.

Now, some politicians and relatives want the Soviet Union to pay compensation, and say those responsible for the murders must be brought to justice.

"For us, the Russian government did only what it had to do. It's only a first step. There must be trials, like at Nuremberg," said Bożena Łojek, a leader of the Federation of Katyn Families.

Many of the federation's members have compiled potted biographies of their dead relatives, which they show proudly to visitors along with photographs and other mementos.

Janusz Krasicki treasures the only postcard his father Witold managed to send from Starobielsk.

"Don't send parcels, especially not sugar, because I get about a kilogramme a month. Keep the sugar for the children," he wrote. "Don't worry about me. Write as often as you can."

Like many Poles, Krasicki believes Stalin ordered the murders for two reasons: to avenge the Soviet Union's defeat in its 1929 war with Poland, and eliminate the most outstanding leaders of a country he was bent on wiping from the map of Europe.

But until Moscow reveals more details, he and the other, mostly middle-aged relatives will have little to comfort them but their memories.

"We remember what wonderful people they were, who they were, what they represented for our families and our country. They were the flower of Poland's intelligentsia," Piskorska said.

"It has been a great sorrow for so many years, it cannot be described. We're old people, many of us have grandchildren, and we still weep for our fathers."

Letters to the editor

Clearing the air

SIR: Referring to the letter written by one Jacinto Diaz on 28.4.90 — "Image boost," I, being the father of Miss Susan Rego, who was crowned Miss Goa — 1990, would like to clear the air.

"Stagnant" water always stinks, illness comes to man who stops to drink. A river is not a river without flow, so is a lamp not a lamp that does not flicker and glow!

Whenever articles centred on us appear in the local dailies, there is a hue and cry from a certain section of our Indian community, so much so that I had already embraced Islam while I am still a Christian, because I had objected to some fanatics from criticizing other religions, in Kuwait.

Being a father of 4 children, I have done my best to raise them. If they are what they are today, it is by the dedicated work of a father.

Well, friend, what are your achievements? You should know that "Success" of a man is not measured by his wealth, but by his achievements! Then don't forget "when dogs start barking around the forest, a lion will not turn vegetarian!!"

If you ever wish to crown your daughter by a larger crown than what Susan had won in Goa, please call on me and I shall be glad to lend you one from her large collections.

Though we have lots of friends and well-wishers among the wonderful people in Goa, we make no secrets of our own identity because we are proud of it. In case you find it difficult, then don't worry, be happy, eat "shikh khodi."

Albert Jossy Rego,
Aaqool.

Negative articles

SIR: This letter is referring to two articles published in the past few days, one, "Low Key Celebrations for Eid Al Fitr" and the other "Pakistani Qawwal enchants Japanese audience."

In the first article in one place it was mentioned

that, during the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from "eating, drinking, pleasures of the flesh, and all sorts of evils" implying that this all ended on Eid Al Fitr. I'm sure that it wasn't the intention of the article to imply that during the rest of the year all sorts of evils are allowable, but that is how it seemed. So, I just want to make it clear that Muslims are supposed to be moderate in food, drink (non-alcoholic, of course) and sex, and must always refrain from the other "evils" (such as lying, cheating, breaking promises, etc.) to the best of their abilities.

I don't know who the imam was who was quoted in the article and I don't know if he was perhaps misquoted, but I would like to mention that it is not fitting for any Muslim, to say, while beseeching Allah, "give us so-and-so if you deem us worthy." This is something a Muslim should not do, as we are told in a hadith, as Allah can most definitely decide who is or isn't "worthy" — and we, as His servants, should always ask Allah for whatever we want in a confident manner, confident that we will be granted whatever we ask for if we are sincere, and that, if we don't get exactly what we wanted it is because Allah, in all His wisdom, knows it's better for us not to have it.

The last problem was the way the fasting Muslims are portrayed in the last section of the article. Of course, there are people who do fit the portrayal, but it is certainly not the ideal, and all Muslims are urged to continue their lives in as close to a normal way as possible. Also, a Muslim who is truly fasting for the sake of Allah will become infinitely more patient, more productive than usual, and will definitely not gorge himself during the night. It is obvious that if people do not act that way then they have missed the whole idea of fasting in the first place.

The second article was about a famous Pakistani vocalist who performed in Japan recently.

Performances

In the article it was stated that "qawwali" are "soul-stirring traditional Muslim praise songs." Well, there are no such things in Islam. What stirs the heart and soul of a Muslim is the Quran and what is contained in it, and the traditions of the Prophet and what is contained in them: i.e. belief in Allah, fear of disobeying or displeasing Allah, and desire to go to

paradise and stay away from the hell-fire. The mention of "hypnotic beat" clues us immediately to the fact that such performances are not Islamic, as, in Islam, Muslims must always be fully aware of everything around them, and anything (except sleep, etc.) that makes one forget oneself, or that which mesmerises is thus to be avoided.

It was also mentioned in the article that "the 'qawwali' yodelled like the best singer of the Holy Quran." The Quran is not "sung", it is recited. On the surface some people may think that there is no difference due to the melodious quality of the voice during proper recitation, but it is most definitely not the same as singing.

The comment which made the whole thing obvious was the statement that the music of the group is derived from Islamic tradition of "Sufism". Well, first of all, Sufism originally did have some roots in Islam, as did Shi'ism and other sects, and these sects still contain many similarities to Islam; but, anyone who researches Sufism will quickly see that Sufis beliefs go against basic Islamic teachings, and thus cannot be considered truly within the fold of Islam. Yes, such "hypnotic music" is a common thing in Sufism, but it has no place in Islam.

Again, I urge all press services, as well as newspapers, magazines, and all the media, in general, to please stop spreading falsehoods, and misleading or derogatory statements about Islam, especially here in Kuwait, a Muslim country.

I was just wondering why there are rarely (or never) any articles about Islam anymore in the Arab Times, where as there used to be a weekly column? Please be fair and give us equal time, along with the Philippines and Indians, as well as the usual gossip about the entertainment world.

Mia Ponzio,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

E. Germany

Southerners feel short-changed

GLAUCHAU, East Germany, (Reuter): After voting for conservatives who promised a financial bonanza in German unity, many people in East Germany's industrial south feel short-changed and fear hardship lies ahead.

Visions of Western cars and Mediterranean holidays just around the corner have been dashed as politicians beat a retreat from election vows to convert East Germans' savings into West German marks at an open-ended rate of one-to-one.

The promise of parity from Bonn helped conservative parties that now head East Germany's governing coalition amass more than 60 per cent of votes in many parts of the south.

Worthless

But Bonn, pressured by its inflation-conscious central bank, now wants no more than 4,000 near-worthless East German marks in personal savings for each person to be swapped at the one-to-one rate. The rest would be traded at a rate of two East marks for one West.

Dissatisfaction, bitterness and helplessness predated the comments of people interviewed in Glauchau, a shabby small town about 300 km (185 miles) south of Berlin.

"Once there was euphoria here. Now there's a feeling of emptiness, even resignation. Monetary union is on everyone's lips and everyone's really down about it," said Bettina Preiss, 28, an industrial economist.

But none of those interviewed who voted conservative in the March 18 general election said dismay would drive them into the arms of leftist parties when the country votes for regional and municipal governments on May 6.

"I voted CDU (Christian Democrats) then and I'll do it again on May 6. I was fed up with Stalinism anyway. The left is no alternative," said Ute Geschwandner, 47, a factory worker.

There is little East Germany's new conservative-led coalition, whose election campaign was virtually stage-managed by West German sister parties, can do to change Bonn's mind.

Currency

It is Bonn which will be paying to resuscitate East Germany's economy in unification.

The citizens of Glauchau had regarded Bonn's moneyed muscle as their saviour before March 18. Now, it appears an object of resentment as dreams linked to currency union, due by July 2, fade away.

"If it turns out we can only change 4,000 marks at par, it will be not only a financial loss but a moral loss, because people who worked hard here for years will be cheated out of their desert, be degraded," said waiter Rainer Kaltofen.

"People had a lot of illusions here. Lots of West marks, a nice car. But look what happened. You can't buy a car with 4,000 marks," he said with a disgusted wave of his hand during a break in work at a state-owned cafe.

Some said that while places like Glauchau might look down at the heels compared to the clean and bustling towns of similar size in West Germany, East Germans still expected to be treated with respect as the nation unifies.

"We still have a little pride here. We made a lot of mistakes (over 40 years of communist rule) but we still worked. We should not give ourselves away," said Kaltofen, who like most Glauchausers voted Christian Democrat.

Hardship

"You're going to see a row here after monetary union," said Eveline Schneider, 31, a secretary at the Trabant car factory in the nearby industrial city of Zwickau.

Like many others, she welcomed Bonn's agreement to redeem East German salaries and pensions at a one-to-one exchange but was upset that they would not be raised to West German levels to offset an expected abolition of price subsidies.

Instead of the income bonanza conservatives touted in the election campaign, she saw only hardship ahead.

"We'll have to pull our belts very tight. For example, instead of throwing out the rest of Friday's bread on Monday morning because it's stale, we might have to eat it."

"Most people voted for the alliance (conservative bloc) here. The left had no money. We need money," said Gerd Koenig, 38, a burly Trabant assembly line worker.

If wages were swapped one-to-one and subsidies disappeared, things will be just as bad here as ever, he said. "Like always, the little people take it on the chin."

Some people in Glauchau predicted a renewed emigration flood to West Germany if East Germans felt cheated by monetary union.

More than half a million East Germans yearning for prosperity have swarmed into West Germany since communist rule began crumbling in the second half of 1989. Most of them came from the industrial south.

QUOTE ME

"The first half was great but in the second I didn't have much energy left. I'm not at my best yet. I've got a lot of work to do in the next month and I'll also be having another check-up on my knee." — Ruud Gullit after AC Milan drubbed Bari 4-0.

"The government also insists on a clear unambiguous commitment to peaceful methods for political change... implying the abandonment of violence and intimidation and a cessation of references to continuing the armed struggle." — South African Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viljoen on negotiation with blacks.

"I know that the first goal will go down in history, but I prefer the third one which gave us a draw. It showed on Saturday that we are superior — look at our five consecutive League titles." — A Real Madrid defender after Real set a record of more than 100 goals in a season.

"I've learned not to speculate on the hostages for the reasons I keep explaining. I just won't say anything. If that proves to be true, that's wonderful." — Bush after Reed's possible release.

"Never mind, we'll win at home in midweek against St. Pauli. Victory will be all the sweeter there." — Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes after a goalless draw with Bayern Leverkusen.

"The capital that must go into (East Germany) will come from all over the world. The Japanese will invest a lot in the country." — A West German official on the hope of offsetting inflation after the current merger between East and West Germany.

"It's not easy to win the championship in Naples. It's not easy to work here. But I feel this is now my city and I'm happy here." — Maradona after leading Napoli to the Italian football league championship.



Kashmiri militants

Kashmiri militants practise Kalashnikov assault rifles at a secret training site north of Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan's Azad Kashmir region on April 28.

Pakistan denies aiding militants fighting against New Delhi's rule in Indian Kashmir, but the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front says it is doing some of its training in Azad Kashmir. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pakistan stand exposed

Kashmir militants shown training

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, May 2. (Reuters): Kashmiri militants, scared until now to admit they were training guerrillas inside Pakistan to fight Indian rule of their homeland, have blown away the smoke screen.

Emboldened by their growing strength and numbers, some talk freely about where they get their arms and have shown Western journalists guerrilla recruits getting basic weapons training in the section of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan.

It could prove explosive for relations between India and Pakistan. Tension between the two countries is already reaching breaking point and there are fears of war.

Pakistan denies any official involvement in the Kashmir rebellion, rejecting Indian charges that it arms and trains young Kashmiris to fight the Kashmir Jihad, or holy war.

The largest of the militant groups, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), shattered all pretence by showing a freelance

photographer and a Western television crew recruits getting arms instruction in Pakistan.

The photographer was taken to a narrow, rocky valley north of Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan's Azad (free) Kashmir, to watch raw recruits in action.

"I would say there were four training, one leader who had fought with the Afghans, there was one sentry and one guy who bought the guns and ammunition," he said.

They spent four hours in the valley being taught weapons skills and firing live ammunition. Used cartridges were carefully collected, he said.

JKLF sources in Muzaffarabad said that after news of the television film spread Pakistan intelligence officials intervened and they were reluctant to repeat the exercise.

"You must understand our problem," one said. "Lots of things go on but we have to be careful."

The day before, the JKLF's Muzaffarabad chief Raja Muzaffar Khan said he believed the Kashmiri militants were becoming strong enough to stand up to the Pakistan government.

"When we were politically weak, Pakistan stopped us and put us behind bars, but now we have public pressure behind us it is very difficult for Pakistan to pressure us," he said.

At one JKLF house in the city two bullet-holed targets mounted on wooden stakes were lying on the ground of bedding for some of the thousands of young men who have trekked across the mountains to Azad Kashmir in recent weeks.

At least 4,000 are concentrated in Muzaffarabad, most living in houses and camps organised by the nine militant groups that last weekend agreed to a joint strategy against India.

Since January, when the secessionist movement flared into open revolt, more than 300 people have died in Indian Kashmir.

Officials on both sides fear a surge of militant activity will come with the melting of the snow that caps the peaks around Muzaffarabad and covers the infiltration routes.

The militant groups emphasise they have no links with the Pakistani government, army or intelligence services, but happily explain how they buy weapons in the arms bazaars of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.

The weapons are then smuggled into Indian Kashmir. Sitting in a house plastered with slogans and stickers saying "freedom or death" and "the price of freedom is blood," militant Abu Arshad said he received training in Afghanistan.

Tamils murder police official

COLOMBO, May 2. (UPI): Three Tamils killed a Sinhalese police officer aboard a train in northeastern Sri Lanka in the first violent incident of its kind since the March 26 completion of the Indian troop withdrawal, military and police officials said yesterday.

Police Inspector-General Ernest Perera, speaking to reporters in Colombo, charged the killers belonged to the defunct Tamil National Army, a militia created by New Delhi in a failed attempt to maintain a pro-Indian government in Tamil-dominated north-eastern province after its troops returned home.

A senior military official said the incident occurred at about 9:45 pm Monday aboard a train on which about 40 police officers under transfer orders were travelling from the northern Jaffna peninsula to Colombo.

The train was approaching Pallai, about 280 miles (230 km) northeast of Colombo, when three Tamils attacked a police officer as he entered the dining car to obtain a glass of water, the official said.

The assailants first shot the officer and then stabbed him, he added. He said authorities were not sure of the motive for the killing.

The three attackers fled from the train when it stopped in Pallai, but were later captured by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the powerful Tamil militant group that eluded Indian attempts to destroy it and assumed control of north-eastern province after New Delhi's troops departed.

The Liberation Tigers turned the three over to a police station at Elephant Pass, the official said. It was the first incident of its kind reported since the Indian army withdrew after more than two years of fighting efforts to smash the Liberation Tigers and restore a provincial administration of the rival Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front.

The Tamil National Army, made up mostly of the Liberation Front cadres, was created by New Delhi to preserve the administration. But members of both went underground or fled to India to escape retribution from the Liberation Tigers prior to the March 26 departure of the last units of New Delhi's 60,000-man force.

The Liberation Tigers and the Liberation Front participated in a civil war waged by Indian-backed minority Tamil rebels for independence for the provinces from the central government, which is dominated by majority Sinhalese.

India deployed its troops under a July 1987 accord aimed at ending the civil war by conferring greater self-rule on the province.

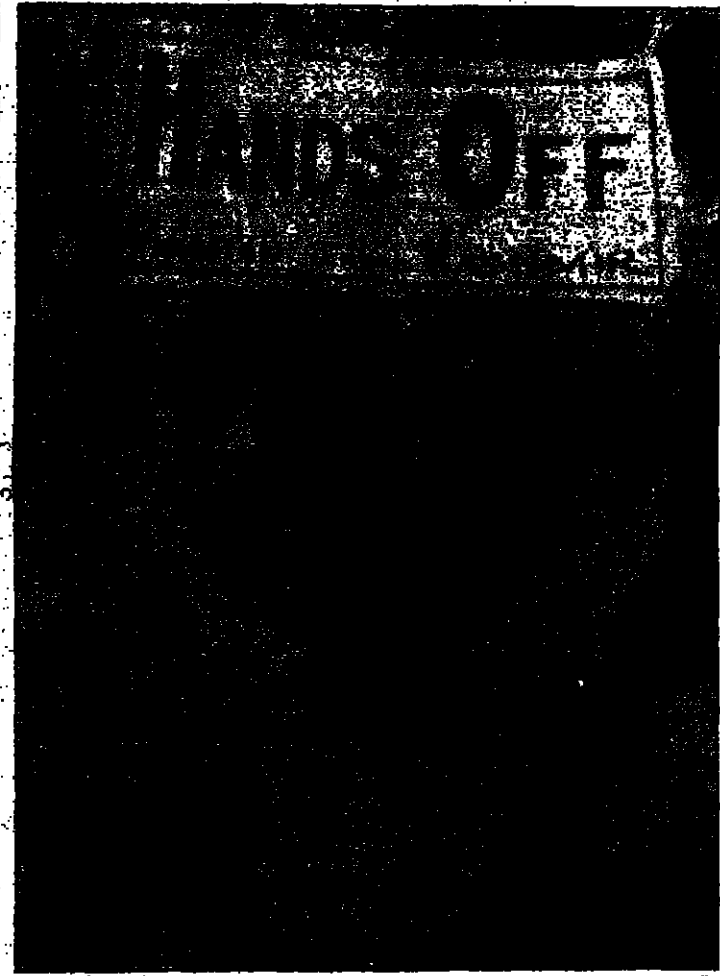
Oilfield workers strike in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan, May 2. (Reuters): A wildcat protest strike hit oilfields in Pakistan's southern province of Sindh today after bandits, failing to collect ransom money, killed four worker hostages, police said.

Several thousand workers, protesting against the killings, stopped work at 20 oil wells.

The workers demanded protection from bandits operating from forest hideouts.

The bandits had demanded six million rupees (\$275,000) in ransom money, the state-run oil and gas development corporation, employee union workers. The four were killed on March 24.



A member of Bharatiya Janata Party shouts anti-Pakistan slogans during a rally in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kaifu for dialogue to resolve issues

DHAKA, May 2. (UPI): Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said yesterday the problems facing Asian nations as in Kashmir and Cambodia should be resolved through dialogue and co-operation.

"At a time when confrontation is giving way to discussion in Eastern Europe, stress should be laid on dialogue and co-operation," Kaifu was quoted as saying by Shigeo Tanaka, spokesman for the Japanese prime minister. Tanaka briefed reporters at the end of two hours of official talks between Kaifu and President Hossein Muhammad Ershad.

The talks preceded the formal dedication of Bangladesh's longest bridge — the 3,051-foot-long (930-m) Bangladesh-Japan friendship bridge — by Kaifu.

Kaifu told Ershad that he pleaded for greater restraint by both India and Pakistan in solving the Kashmir problem during his visit to India. Kashmir region has been rocked by a three-month Muslim insurgency against the Indian government.

Later at a banquet in his honour, the Japanese prime minister urged improved relations among the nations of South Asia. "My present tour of the countries of the region is for one thing, aimed at bringing

a constitution drafting committee, yet to be formed, will produce a new chart to replace the 29-year-old partyless Panchayat system overthrown in April after seven weeks of demonstrations and strikes. Bhattacharya's Nepali Congress Party and the United Left Front, comprising seven communist parties, have formed a provisional government.

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From Italian plane

Missile falls

RIMINI, Italy, May 2. (UPI): A sidewinder air-to-air missile fell from an Italian air force fighter plane yesterday, narrowly missing heavy traffic on the Adriatic coast road, police reported.

The missile was not primed and did not explode when it hit a small hill near the Adriatic beach resort of Marina di Ravenna, some 30 miles (50 km) north of Rimini, where the aircraft was based.

It passed low over the nearby coastal highway which was clogged with May Day traffic when the missile hit the ground around 5 pm yesterday.

Air force investigators said the accident was almost certainly caused by the rupture of a metal bracket holding the missile under the wing of the warplane, an F104S from a fighter squadron based at Rimini, in north-eastern Italy.

The aircraft was one of two returning to Rimini from a training flight along the Adriatic coast when the missile fell from its wing, an air force statement said.

The aircraft was one of two returning to Rimini from a training flight along the Adriatic coast when the missile fell from its wing, an air force statement said.

Bitter letter: Colombian drug smuggler Carlos Lehder has written a bitter letter to former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, urging him to plead guilty and reminding him of the drug traffickers he informed on before he fled out of favour with the United States.

"Your lawyers will concoct fairy tales to get your gold," Lehder said in the April 18 letter. "You should wisely confer with your old allies and formalise a declaration of guilt."

Lehder, 40, is serving a life term plus 135 years at the federal penitentiary in Marion, Illinois, for smuggling more than three tons of cocaine into the United States. He was convicted in May 1988.

Noriega, 51, is at the Metropolitan Correction Centre south of Miami awaiting trial on cocaine trafficking and money laundering charges. (UPI)

US citizen kidnapped: The State Department confirmed on Wednesday that a US citizen was kidnapped last Saturday by Colombian guerrillas in Ecuador.

The man has been identified by family members as Scott Heimdal.

According to Phil Covington, of the State Department's consular affairs bureau, Heimdal, who worked for an Ecuadorian gold-mining company, was travelling by motorized canoe on the River Bermejo, close to the Colombian border, on the way to the town of La Puntita.

A group of armed men attacked the canoe carrying Heimdal and four Ecuadorian employees of the mining company, at 4 pm on Saturday, killing one person and wounding another.

One Ecuadorian taken captive with Heimdal was later released.

Covington said the Ecuadorian military forces are searching the area for the armed men. (UPI)

Latin American art auction: A painting by a Spanish-born Mexican woman artist who died in 1963 set a new world auction record for a work by a Latin American artist.

The "Tower," a surrealist work by Remedio Varo, who died in 1963 at the age of 62, was sold at Christie's auction house on Tuesday for \$825,000, breaking the standing record for a Latin American artist. The previous record of \$715,000 was set by Fernando Botero's "Protestant Family," purchased at Christie's last November by entertainer Andy Warhol.

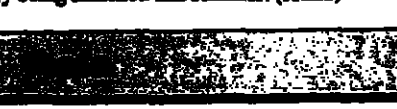
The Varo Oil, painted in 1961 and possibly a religious satire, depicts a Roman Catholic nun on a bicycle leading a group of hypnotised novices out of a beehive-like convent. It was consigned to sale by an anonymous Mexico City art collector and purchased by an unidentified bidder. (AP)

Sizzling spring day: Britain was set for another sizzling spring day on Wednesday, after the hottest May Day on record yesterday.

Lostmouth in Scotland basked on Tuesday in temperatures of 21.4 centigrade — the warmest May Day anywhere since records began in the UK in 1875.

It topped the previous best of 26.7 centigrade recorded in London in 1966.

And after the sunniest April ever in Britain, bookmakers here are shortening the odds on the highest temperature ever recorded in the country being smashed this summer. (Kuna)



Computer viruses: Data-destroying computer viruses developed by a group of 40 Japanese hackers including a high school student have been found in video game software nationwide, officials said Wednesday.

A 17-year-old high school student phoned the Japan Federation of Computer Clubs on Monday and announced he had developed two kinds of viruses, both programmed to destroy data stored in Sharp Corp.'s X68000 personal computers, federation spokesman Minoru Tanaka said.

After the phone call, the Osaka-based federation for personal computer users located the viruses in software for the video game "Far Side Moon," distributed by the software firm Art-dink, Tanaka said. (AP)

Embassy compound sold: Embassies are the latest to succumb to the gold fever of Tokyo's real-estate market.

Recently, the Union of Myanmar (formerly Burma) sold two acres of its Tokyo embassy

News Roundup



Car set on fire

An unidentified person hurries along a burning car set on fire by young rowdies who went on rampage after a peaceful May Day demonstration in West Berlin's city zone Kreuzberg. Police arrested 135 people. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ginsberg in Prague

President Vaclav Havel speaks to legend of Beat-Generation, American poet Allen Ginsberg who is on a visit to Prague after 25 years. In 1965 he became the king of the student's festival of May Day.

Phallic symbols Thais alarmed

BANGKOK, May 2. (Reuters): Thai men are hanging red-tipped phalluses outside their homes and dressing in women's frocks at night to ward off an evil spirit blamed for hundreds of mysterious deaths, the Bangkok Post said today.

The daily newspaper said the symbols had appeared in at least seven northeastern provinces after a wave of deaths among Thai men both at home and abroad.

Governor Saishit Pornkawin Ubon Ratchathani province, annoyed at the wooden phallic symbols flooding his region, has called for an education campaign to counter witchcraft and superstition, it said.

"I don't want the media to make fun out of the phallic worshippers," the Post quoted him as saying. "They are badly in need of moral support."

Some 200 Thai migrant workers in Singapore have died mysteriously in their sleep since 1983, 15 of them this year. Nearly all were from northeastern Thailand.



Stop follows!

Unidentified demonstrator tries to stop a police bulldozer in West Berlin's city zone Kreuzberg where some hundred young rowdies went on rampage after a peaceful May Day demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

compound to a Japanese developer.

The deal earned the Asian country \$239 million, more than its total 1989 export earnings.

Belgium and the Philippines also plan to sell some of their Tokyo land for billions of dollars and Canada is renting out storefronts. (Kuna)

US military power: Japanese Defence Minister Yozo Ishikawa said Tuesday that Japan has no intention of replacing the United

States as the major military power in the Pacific.

Ishikawa is touring Southeast Asia and the Pacific to allay fears about Japan's rearmament in a region where World War II memories are strong, officials at the Japanese embassy said.

As Ishikawa met Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and other government leaders later, the Returned Services League, a war veterans group, demanded Japanese compensation for Australian Prisoners of war and apologies for the prisoners' harsh treatment in captivity. (AP)

Bush salutes veterans: President George Bush saluted veterans of the "forgotten victory" Tuesday, saying the Korean war "laid the foundation for the march of democracy we are seeing today around the world."

"God bless you all and the cause you served," Bush told the vets at a black-tie dinner that raised about \$400,000 for construction of the Korean war veterans memorial on the mall in the nation's capital.

Thus far, about half of the \$8 million needed for the memorial has been raised, say officials who hope to break ground late next year. The memorial will feature 38 life-size statues of soldiers on patrol. (UPI)

Indonesians concerned: Indonesia will continue to provide temporary accommodation for Vietnamese boat people despite concern over the unabated inflow of the refugees, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Wednesday.

"We will continue to abide by the Geneva agreement that we will provide temporary sanctuary for refugees on the understanding that the last destination countries will take their share of responsibility," Alatas said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees feared that Indonesia will not allow new refugees to cross its borders after reports said Malaysia had pushed boat people back onto the high seas, Alatas said. (AP)

\$1.92 jewellery heist: Four robbers, including a woman, held up a shop in downtown Hong Kong Wednesday and escaped with jewellery worth 15 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.92 million), police reported.

Police said the robbers posed as customers, and then two of the men pulled out guns and threatened the shop's three women employees.

They grabbed a large number of diamond necklaces and bracelets before escaping on foot, police said. (AP)

Mine explosion, 30 dead: Thirty miners were killed and another 11 injured in a mine explosion in China's northeastern province of Heilongjiang last month, according to a Heilongjiang radio broadcast.

The disaster occurred April 15 in the Taoshan colliery, an operation under the state-run Qitaihe Mining Administration Bureau, the radio said.

The April 16 broadcast was reported by the British Broadcasting Corp. monitoring service and seen in Beijing yesterday. (AP)

Killer 'stoneman' still prowls Calcutta streets

Police baffled; killing by dropping stone on sleeping victim

CALCUTTA, May 2. (Reuters): He kills by dropping a huge stone on his sleeping victims, making Calcutta, Rudyard Kipling's "City of Dreadful Night", even more fearful.

Called the "Stoneman," the stealthy killer has prowled India's largest city since last June and police say he has claimed 11 victims, all impoverished street dwellers, crushing their skulls and escaping into the darkness.

So far a special 100-member police task-force and vigilante groups of pavement

dwellers have failed to apprehend the "Stoneman" who has left behind not a single clue to his identity — no fingerprints, no footprints and no one to describe him.

"There are no eyewitnesses to the crime. All we can say is that he is probably heavily built and capable of carrying a 25 to 30 kg (55 to 65 pound) stone," said a deputy police commissioner Prasad Mukherjee, in charge of the city's detectives.

"We can't say if he is mobile but he obviously moves very fast," he said.

So far the "Stoneman" has selected his victims mainly in central Calcutta near the city's busy Sealdah Railway Station. He killed his last victim in February, police said.

His first victim was a woman in her 30s who was killed last June in the early morning while her husband left her sleeping on the pavement to get a cup of tea.

He has also killed two teen-aged boys. Most of his victims were sleeping in secluded spots but his 10th, a 35-year-old

woman, was killed outside the crowded office of the Ananda Bazar Patrika newspaper.

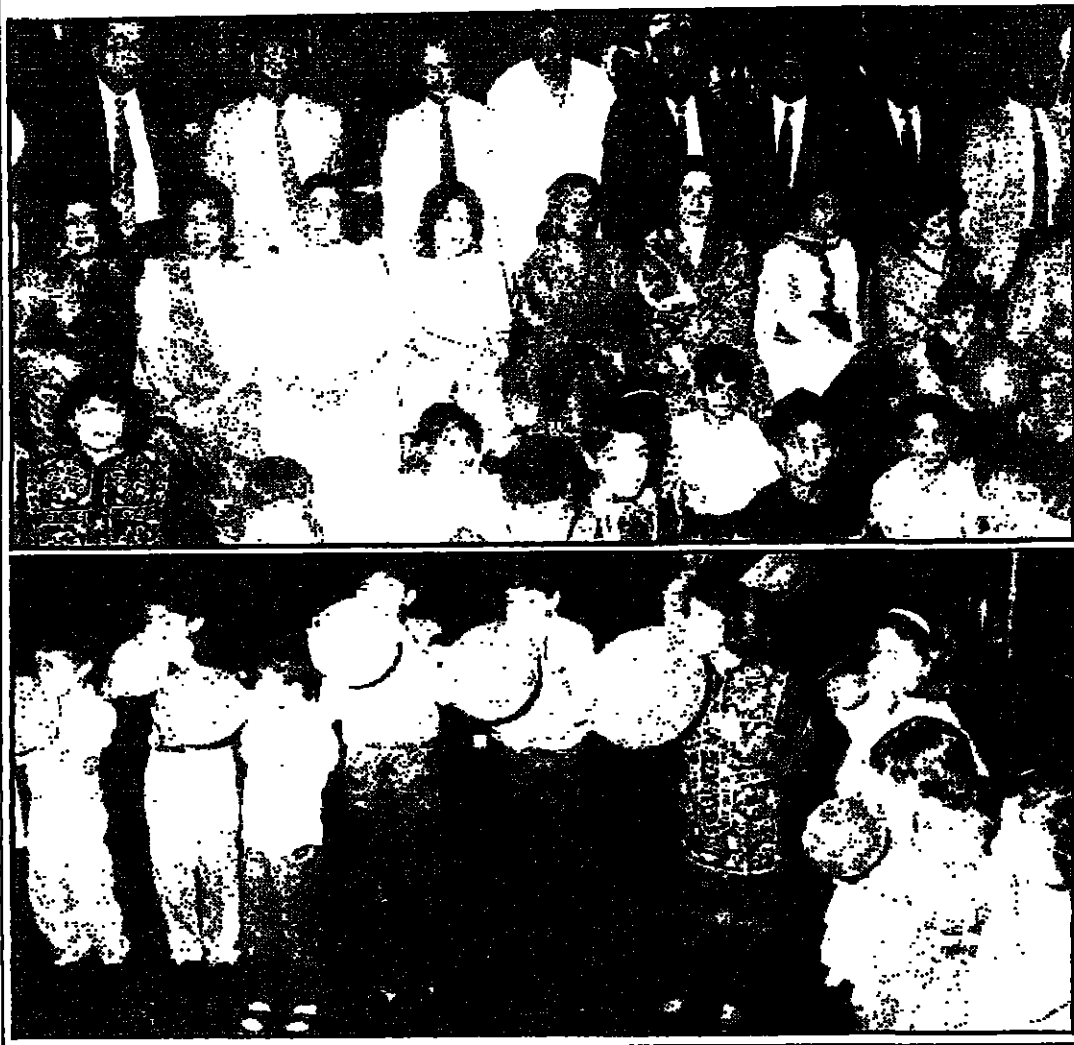
Reporters leaving the office late at night found her body lying in a pool of blood, her skull crushed by a rock.

Police were baffled because the area is always congested with people entering or leaving the newspaper office.

Police have interviewed psychiatrists who believe the "Stoneman" is a psychopathic killer.

EVENTS

PPC's traditional Eid Milan party



PAKISTAN People's Club Kuwait held its traditional Eid Milan party for their families and children at the Meridien Hotel on Eid Day.

The gala programme, conducted by Yunus Chaudhry and assisted by Salim Pervaiz, consisted many games for the children, ladies as well as gents. Winners were awarded with valuable gifts and all were served to a buffet dinner.

Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar, president of PPC and Rafique Ahmed Mirza, secretary of the club wished all members a very happy Eid Al Fitr. Dr Mahesar also read out Eid message, received from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Begum Nusrat Bhutto and thanked all the members for their support in organising this colourful programme.

Pictures show (top) a group photograph of participating families with Rafique Mirza (first from left) and (below) children's balloon bursting event in process.

ACT's 'Voyages'

ACT wants to help you get in the mood for your summer travel plans by presenting a unique dramatic presentation on Thursday May 10. Destination: the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School, Jabriya. No need to pack passports, luggage, or visas, just bring your appetite for listening, laughing and a light buffet.

Hang on to your seats as you voyage across the world and throughout time with your travelling companions Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, Antoine de St. Exupery, Idries Shah, E.E. Cummings, Chaucer, Walt Whitman and Wilfred Thesiger to name a few. You'll also venture where no one has gone before with Lewis Carroll, Kurt Vonnegut and Douglas Adams.

This readers' theatre production, ACT's season finale, incorporates poetry, prose, and music. Selections range from lush and romantic, to outrageously funny, to bittersweet.

But don't expect a line of chairs and music stands in front of the curtain. Each piece has been carefully choreographed to help you feel truly transported by the diverse experiences and views of authors as they have marvelled, pondered, and sometimes scorned the people and places of planet Earth — and other planets, too.

Michael Thomas, last seen in ACT's "When the Wind Blows" has been a driving force in developing "Voyages" and hopes audience response will warrant other readings next year. Together with fellow ACT actors, he has been reading, selecting, editing, scripting and orchestrating the material. Along with Thomas, readers include Cynthia and Stephen Lloyd, Duke Estes and Mary Anne Plautz.

So if you're a tourist (armchair or otherwise), traveller, adventurer or merely curious passenger on this great, global Ship of Fools, "Voyages" is a one-night-only journey you won't want to miss. See "What's On" for details.



PPYA's Eid Milan party

The Pakistan People's Youth Association, Kuwait, recently held an Eid Milan party for its workers at a local restaurant in which Akhtar Khan, second secretary at Pakistan embassy, Kuwait was the chief guest. The president of the association Syed Saleem Abbas, addressing the gathering, prayed for the prosperity and solidarity of Pakistan and paid tribute to the freedom-fighters of Palestine, Kashmir and Afghanistan.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3:38 am
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	3:21 pm
Maghreb	6:26
Isha	7:49

Friday

Fajr	3:37 am
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	3:21 pm
Maghreb	6:26
Isha	7:50

CINEMA

Al Andalus	Arabic film
Al Salmiyah	Hall booked
Al Hamra	Born Killer
Drive-in	Arabic film
Al Firdous	Gharana
Fahad Open	Eswar
Fahad	Gerafar
Al Jahra	Arabic film
Granada	Hall booked
Salaikhat	Oru Vivada Vishayam
Jeeb	Aas Paas
Aas Paas	Ahmedi Drive-in
Arabic film	
FRIDAY	
Al Andalus	Arabic film
Al Salmiyah	Hall booked
Al Hamra	Born Killer
Drive-in	Arabic film
Al Firdous	Gharana
Fahad Open	Eswar
Fahad	Gerafar
Al Jahra	Arabic film
Granada	Battle Truck
Salaikhat	Radio Active Dreams
Jeeb	The Untouchables
Kaum Jeeta Kaun Hara	Ahmedi Drive-in
Arabic film	

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushahri Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'i. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

Islamic Art
We have the pleasure to announce the opening of the "Masterpieces of Islamic Art from the Hermitage and from the Daghestan Museums" to which you are cordially invited on Tuesday May 1, 1990 at 5.00 pm at Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah.

The exhibition will be on display daily (except Saturdays) from May 1 until May 31, 1990.

SOCIAL

Hyderabad — Festival Cricket
A FESTIVAL cricket match between veterans of Hyderabad will be played on the sports day in connection with the 400 year anniversary of Hyderabad Deccan at Juleeb Al Shuyoukh ground (behind Juleeb Al Shuyoukh Al Shuyoukh Cinema) on 4th May, 1990 from 2 to 5 pm. All the players listed in the teams below are requested to be present on the ground in their kits. For further details please contact Tel: 4842578, 4843481, 5311443.

Golkonda XI: 1. Aqueel (captain); 2. Dr N.V. Naidu (vice-captain); 3. Zakiuddin; 4. Rafik Ahmad; 5. Barkatulla; 6. Zaheer Burni; 7. Dr. Srinivasan; 8. Sajjad Ali; 9. Farhatulla; 10. Bashir Khan; 11. Mujeebuddin; 12. Dr. Raouf; 13. Anees A. Khan; 14. Tazher. **Chairman XI:** 1. Dr. Riaz R. Khan (captain); 2. Dr. Shakeel Khan (vice-captain); 3. Irfan; 4. Ali Hyder; 5. Nayeem Burni; 6. Mukarram Khan; 7. Mujeebulla Mukarram; 8. Taqi Hyder; 9. Mohd H. Khan; 10. Mirza; 11. Imran; 12. Hoshdar Khan; 13. Akbar Ali Khan.

Daniella Dhow Trip
Daniella invites all Danes to go on a dhow trip on Friday, May 4. For registration please call Jytte on Tel: 2449610 before April 22.

Weekend on KTV

THE Kuwait Television programme Weekend returns this season with a fresh approach to presenting local events. This week's programme will be shown on KTV2 at 9.30 pm on Friday, May 4. Highlights include a feature on KISR's fish breeding farm and an interview with an expert on calligraphy and Quranic writings; plus a visit to the new Quran section at the Tareq Rajab Museum.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

THE next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held at 10 am on Sunday, May 6, at the Kuwait International Hotel. Latest information and plans will be announced. All German-speakers are requested to make an effort to attend. All are welcome.

Malayalee forum

MALAYALEE Law Graduates Forum. The next meeting of Malayalee Law Graduates' Forum will be held on 4-5-1990, Friday evening. Advocate Jameela Ibrahim, the leading practicing advocate and social worker from Quilon, Kerala state will be the chief guest. The forum decided to step up its activities by providing advises to expatriates on Indian legal matters. The forum will continue the discussion on Indian income tax act in its next meeting. All Malayalee law graduates are welcome. For further information please contact, P.O. Thomas Panicker, 4332713, Samuel John 2429285, Philip Thampan 2444808.

Daniella Dhow Trip

FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Danes has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am. For reservations call Jytte Tel: 2449610 before May 5.

Oriental carpets

DISPLAY of Oriental carpets — old and new — will be held on Thursday, May 3, and Friday, May 4, from 10 am to 4 pm. House No. 7, Street No. 7, Sector I, Surra. Tel: 5326833.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Black is Beautiful

THURSDAY, MAY 3rd 1990: A tribute to Nelson Mandela titled "Black is Beautiful" an Afro — Soul and Reggae concert featuring Steve Michael and The Afro Beat is scheduled at the Basketball stadium of the Al Arabi Sporting Club, Mansouriyah, from 8 pm.

An airticket — Kuwait-Nairobi-Kuwait from Gulf Air. Electronic equipment from Sharp, a special offer from Showbiz etc are added attractions.

Limited tickets are now available on sale at: Showbiz: 5726729

Al Arabi Club: 2652726
Swan Lake Rec: 5721030
Art Corner: 2665068
Soft Rock Cafe: 2405648
Image Recording: 2405859
White House: 2476660
Family Book Shop: 571430
Modern Sports: 5748684

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance

Presents "The dancer is the Dance & Dance is Life" on Monday, April 30th at 8 pm; Tuesday, May 1st at 8 pm; Wednesday, May 2nd at 8 pm; Thursday, May 3rd at 3 pm (matinee); Thursday, May 3rd at 8 pm.

Tickets are on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm - 6 pm, Saturday — Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099 from 8 am - 12 noon.

Saligocars

CALLING all Saligocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel No. 2406936 (Res), Aloio Carvalho, 2411442 Res, 246121, Cedric D'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2413401, Res. 2412337.

Hyderabad

FRIDAY (May 4, 1990), Sports ground, behind Cinema Jeeb Al Shuyoukh. 9.00 am — Inauguration of celebrations and sports by the Ambassador of India, Arun Kumar Budhira. 10.00 am — Sports and games for children, ladies, gents and veterans. 12.00 noon — Break for prayer and lunch. 2.00 pm — Festival cricket match for veterans.

Friday (May 11, 1990), Mesilah Beach Resort. 3.00 pm — Once in a life time chance to taste and enjoy delicious and mouth watering dishes. Games, lucky draw and magic show for children. Prize distribution.

Thursday (May 17, 1990), Carlton Tower Hotel, Faisl Al Salem St. 8.00 pm — Highlighting the golden era of Hyderabad followed by a grand Mushaira by guest and local poets and release of souvenir.

Friday (May 18, 1990), Starlite theatre, Entertainment City (Doha), Kuwait. 5.00 pm — Valedictory function and musical night of ghazals by invitee artists from Hyderabad and local artists, light music and many more items.

Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheen H. Khan.

For further details and information please contact: General information: Mohamad Fasihuddin Chand, Tel: 2402603-569647; Mohamad Naseeruddin, Tel: 4736958. Sports: Dr Naidu, Tel: 4842578; Karim Idan, Tel: 3716247. Musical programme: Dr Shakeel Khan, Tel: 5317885; Shahnoor Khan, Tel: 5644539. Souvenir: N. Nizamuddin Ahmed, Tel: 4745537; Zakiuddin, Tel: 2428105; Mohamad H. Khan, Tel: 2402019. Literary: Dr Sami Khan, Tel: 4811514; Ehtesham Uddin, Tel: 2463116. Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheen H. Khan.

ACT's production of

"Voyages", an evening of words and music about travel, will be presented one night only at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School on Thursday, May 10, 1990. This readers' theatre presentation includes selections of humorous and inspiring poetry and prose by contemporary and classical authors. 3KD admission includes light buffet. Call 5620332, 4-8 pm for reservations. Tickets are also available at the door.

Seminar

TO be held at the auditorium of KFAS on May 2, 1990. Opening session — 09.30 - 09.30.

Dr Adel T. Adamova — "Miniatures of the Khamsa of Nizami, 1431" (Lecture is in English) — 09.30 - 10.30.

Dr Fatima Hamzotova — "Traditional Art in Dagestan" (Lecture is in Russian) — 10.30 - 11.30.

Break for prayers
Professor Galina Pugachenkova — "The development of Architecture in Central Asia from the 7th - 17th century (Lecture is in French) — 12.00 - 13.00; Discussion — 13.00 - 13.30.

Break for lunch at the invitation of KFAS

Professor Mikhail Piotrovsky — "Characteristic features of Arab-Islamic Medieval Artistic Culture" (Lecture is in Arabic) — 16.00 - 17.00.

Dr Ahmadov Ashraf "The Contribution of Arabs and Muslims in the Advancement of Science" (Lecture is in Arabic) — 17.00 - 18.00; Discussion — 18.00 - 18.30.

Break for prayers

Dr Vitali Naumkin "The Study of Arabic and Islamic Culture in the USSR" (Lecture is in Arabic) — 19.00 - 20.00.
Dr A.B. Khalidov — "Arabic manuscripts from the Library of Muhammad Parsa" (Lecture is in Arabic) — 20.00 - 21.00.

Dinner at Kuwait Towers
This seminar is open to the public and will have simultaneous translations.

Ladies International League SUMMER bazaar: Regency Palace Hotel, Friday May 11, from 10 am to 6.00 pm. Something for everyone. See you there.

Cosmos Summer Nite

KUWAIT Cosmos Hockey Club presents Cosmos Summer Nite, an open-air event of the decade on May 10, 1990 at 21.00 hrs until dawn at the lush green lawns of the Hunting and Equestrian Club (by the pool-side). Music by The Hurricane & The Equalisers. Highlights: *Cosmos Summer Nite special: *Novelty dance: *Table surprises: *Ballroom competition: *Live exhibition of the famous Brazilian "Lambada" performed by the team of the Kuwait India Festival. Plenty of gifts in store inclusive of air tickets and not forgetting the aroma of an exotic buffet prepared by exclusively Indian chefs.

Come one, come all — pick your invitation and make your table reservations from the undermentioned members: Benny — 2661831 (R); Fortes — 4874172 (R); Dama — 5623621 (R); Vincent — 4887140 (R).

Garden Fete

Hyderabad Festival Committee announces the holding of a garden fete on Friday, May 11, Mesilah Beach Resort. It will be open to all families. Hyderabad food, magic show, games and a lot of fun is promised for families. A fancy dress competition is also proposed. Parents of children below 12 who wish to take part in the event can register children's name on 5619071, Mr. Khan.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorla, organised by Utorla Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

Konkani Theatre

MAY 10-11: Konkani and his 15 member troupe arrive from Goa to present two Konkani dramas namely new release Xinxé at 7 pm (May 10) and repeated at 4 pm (May 11) and diamond jubilee completed Beiman Tum at 10.30 am on May 11 at Granada Cinema, Kheitan. Contrary to reports circulating, THIS IS NOT A LOCAL SHOW and Roseferns, popularly known as Goa's King of Centuries should not be mistaken for one local identical namesake in Kuwait. Tickets available at Raja Stores Tel. 2412970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506 and Alex Martins. An Expatriate Club presentation.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel

FAILAKA: Offers a celebration menu. Promises to be a gourmet's delight. Special Arabic appetizer and desert buffet with a choice of soups and main courses. Live entertainment too.

LA PALMA: Eid gala brunch buffet for lunch and extensive Arabic buffet for dinner with oriental band.

LA PALMA POOL: Surprise barbecue for lunch with jazz band.

GARDEN POOL: Superb Kubli Khan Mongolian barbecue. Mix and match your lunch while it is prepared according to your palate.

LA PATISSERIE: Oriental sweets buffet with tea and coffee. Plenty of take-away too.

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Star of the show "AFL" will land with his spaceship at the Kuwait International, Games, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Kiddie Castle will provide non-

stop excitement from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

All details at 2530000 ext. 8039 or 8040.

Kuwait Sheraton

RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night. **Hunt Room:** The famous Hunt Room restaurant offers some of the best meat and fish preparation for lunch and dinner with live entertainment nightly.

Le Tarbouche: Open for lunch and dinner. Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold buffet dishes for families and friends. **Al Hambra:** Enjoy the Arabian Night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style, nightly entertainment by Gli Amici and singer Maha.

SPORTS

Yoga lessons

For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext 8050 or Tanya at 5626529.

Kuwait Rugby

BMW Rugby Sevens Tournament Thursday, May 3, 2.00 pm onwards. All players and spectators welcome.

Thursday, May 17: 3rd Annual Fun-Run.

Thursday June 6, Oval Ball. If you would like details, information on any of these please contact S. Hill 5391720, G. Adams 5645433, R. Houston 5658435.

TV PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Opening & Holy Quran	5.00 Khamees
9.30 Cartoon serial	6.00 Cartoons
9.45 Songs	6.00 Historical serial - Muslim Judges
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)	7.00 With the students programme
10.10 Daily Arabic serial	8.00 Local programme - All Arts
10.15 Cultural programme - Open university	8.30 Religious programme
10.30 Local variety programme - Nagham	9.00 News in Arabic
1.00 News in brief	9.45 Daily Arabic serial
1.05 World Today via Satellite (repetition)	10.35 Arabic feature film: Kheyana. Starring: Sameer Sabri
1.45 Local variety programme	12.15 Songs
2.00 Songs	1.15 News in brief
2.45 Cultural programme	1.20 World Today via Satellite
3.45 Local variety programme - Liqa Al	1.45 Closedown.

KTV 2

9.45 Children serial	9.45 Daily Arabic serial
10.00 Songs	10.30 A variety programme
10.15 Children magazine	11.45 News in brief
11.00 Religious programme	11.50 World Today via Satellite closedown
11.15 Friday prayers	
12.30 Local variety programme - Alwan	
1.00 News in brief	
1.05 World Today via Satellite (repetition)	
1.30 Weekly programme - Estrabat Al Juma	
4.00 Arabic serial	
5.00 Cartoon serial	
6.00 Kuwait in a week programme	
6.30 Weekly programme preview	
7.00 Cultural programme	
8.00 Family programme	
8.45 Weekly talk	
9.00 News in Arabic	

KTV 3

9.45 Children serial	9.45 Daily Arabic serial
10.00 Songs	10.30 A variety programme
10.15 Children magazine	11.45 News in brief
11.00 Religious programme	11.50 World Today via Satellite closedown
11.15 Friday prayers	
12.30 Local variety programme - Alwan	
1.00 News in brief	
1.05 World Today via Satellite (repetition)	
1.30 Weekly programme - Estrabat Al Juma	
4.00 Arabic serial	
5.00 Cartoon serial	
6.00 Kuwait in a week programme	
6.30 Weekly programme preview	
7.00 Cultural programme	
8.00 Family programme	
8.45 Weekly talk	
9.00 News in Arabic	

KTV 4

9.45 Children serial	9.45 Daily Arabic serial
10.00 Songs	10.30 A variety programme
10.15 Children magazine	11.45 News in brief
11.00 Religious programme	11.50 World Today via Satellite closedown
11.15 Friday prayers	
12.30 Local variety programme - Alwan	
1.00 News in brief	
1.05 World Today via Satellite (repetition)	
1.30 Weekly programme - Estrabat Al Juma	
4.00 Arabic serial	
5.00 Cartoon serial	
6.00 Kuwait in a week programme	
6.30 Weekly programme preview	
7.00 Cultural programme	
8.00 Family programme	
8.45 Weekly talk	
9.00 News in Arabic	

KTV 5

9.45 Children serial	9.45 Daily Arabic serial
10.00 Songs	10.30 A variety programme
10.15 Children magazine	11.45 News in brief
11.00 Religious programme	11.50 World Today via Satellite closedown
11.15 Friday prayers	
12.30 Local variety programme - Alwan	
1.00 News in brief	
1.05 World Today via Satellite (repetition)	
1.30 Weekly programme - Estrabat Al Juma	
4.00 Arabic serial	
5.00 Cartoon serial	
6.00 Kuwait in a week programme	
6.30 Weekly programme preview	
7.00 Cultural programme	
8.00 Family programme	
8.45 Weekly talk	
9.00 News in Arabic	

KTV 6

ing Day. Cossy has to go shopping on a stormy day.

10.00 Just for the Record. The dangerous motor-cycling sport. A ghost-house and rumours ... games that require dexterity....

10.30 Feature film. "Hear no evil". A police officer insists on chasing the criminals who deafened him....

12.00 News in Brief

12.10 Magazine D'Actualité

FRIDAY

5.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran.

6.10 Popeye and Son. A cartoon series for children.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Oman's gas reserves increase

MUSCAT, May 2, (AP): Oman's earnings from gas in 1989 increased 15 per cent to 36 million rials (\$144 million) compared to the previous year, raising expectations gas will replace oil as a primary energy source, a senior official said today.

Associated gas and non-associated gas reserves totalled 2.75 trillion cubic feet (77.87 trillion cubic decimeters) and 6.26 trillion cubic feet (177.25 trillion cubic decimeters) at the beginning of the year, said Sultan Shams, director of gas affairs at the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals.

Associated gas is gas produced with crude oil. Non-associated gas is produced by refineries.

"We're making increasing use of gas where possible to fuel power requirements. Present resources are capable of meeting projected demand to the year 2015," he told the Associated Press.

Shams said that approximately 90 per cent of current gas production was used for local power generation and the remaining 10 per cent went to industry.

"We are optimistic that gas will be the fuel of the future here. It is clean, available at a relatively cheap price and will enable us to save oil," he added.

Gas is utilised increasingly worldwide to replace fossil fuels like oil and coal.

These are heavy pollutants and deplete the earth's ozone layer, increasing the risk of worsening the "greenhouse effect," a warming of the planet's atmosphere.

Gas-fired electricity generating plants cover power demand in the capital and the Sultan Qaboos University campus and an industrial estate on the outskirts of Muscat.

Walesa angles for Western investment

GDANSK, Poland, May 2, (Reuters): British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd met Solidarity leader Lech Walesa today to discuss Western investment in Poland — and presented him with a 2-1/2 metre (eight-foot) fishing net.

Hurd handed the gift to Walesa, a keen angler, at a 40-minute meeting in Gdansk, birthplace of the Solidarity trade union which took power from the communists last year.

"Mainly we were talking about developments in Poland and Mr. Walesa made an eloquent appeal for Western aid and participation," Hurd told reporters.

"I'm convinced we shall be able to do business," said Walesa, who has frequently appealed for Western investment and aid for Poland's economy.

Turkish minister for Baghdad

ANKARA, May 2, (Reuters): The Turkish state minister in charge of economic relations, Ihsan Celik, left for Baghdad today for economic talks ahead of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's expected official visit on May 5-7, officials said.

Celik will head his country's delegation at a meeting of the Turkish-Iraqi joint economic committee to discuss co-operation in banking, construction, health, transportation, communications and agriculture.

Abdul is likely to begin an official visit to Baghdad on Saturday for talks on issues including a Kurdish insurgency near Turkey's borders with Iraq and sharing the waters of the Euphrates river, officials sources said.

Envoy meets Opec chief

THE secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), Abdul Aziz A. Al Turki, received in his office yesterday the Turkish ambassador to Kuwait, Guner Ozal. Talks covered subjects of mutual interest, and the friendly relations between Opec member countries and the Republic of Turkey.

Oapec to meet

ABU DHABI, May 2, (Opec): Oil ministers of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapec) will meet in Kuwait next week under the chairmanship of Egyptian Oil Minister Abdul Nadi Ghandi.

The one-day meeting on May 9 will focus on the Oapec five-year plan, its 1990 budget and the fifth Arab energy conference due to take place in Amman, Jordan, in 1992.

Egypt, the current president of the organisation, was readmitted last year following a 10-year suspension of membership for its having signed the Camp David peace accords with Israel.

Oapec states — Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates — hold 60 per cent of the world's oil reserves.

Manufacturing sector shows slight growth

NEW YORK, May 2, (AP): manufacturing sector grew slightly in April after declining for 11 consecutive months, boosted by strength in new orders, particularly exports, according to a survey of the nation's purchasing managers released yesterday.

The National Association of Purchasing Management, which tracks economic trends by polling its members each month, said its index rose to 50.2 per cent in April from 48.8 per cent the previous month.

A reading above 50 indicates the manufacturing economy generally is expanding; below 50 it is generally contracting.

The April reading was the highest since last April's 52.7 per cent, the purchasing managers' group said in a release from its Tempe, Arizona, headquarters.

Singh hits out at US on trade

India welcomes foreign investment in high technology areas

NEW DELHI, May 2, (Agencies): In criticism clearly aimed at the United States and Western Europe, Prime Minister V.P. Singh today charged developed nations are boosting protectionism and acting unilaterally in trade disputes, bypassing established multilateral mechanisms.

The Indian leader levelled his allegations in a speech opening the 23rd annual meeting of the board of governors of the Asian Development Bank, the first ever held in New Delhi.

His comments in regards to trade disputes came amid a bitter row between Washington and New Delhi over India's trade policies, which the US government contends are far too restrictive and limit investments by foreign companies.

The Bush administration last week maintained India on a list of unfair trading partners — from which it dropped Japan and Brazil — making New Delhi liable for retaliation under so-called Super 301 legislation unless it moves to address Washington's concerns before June 15.

Singh hit out at developed countries that bypass multilateral mechanisms, such as the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), and take unilateral action in trade disputes.

"These tendencies weaken the multilateral trading system and reduce confidence among developing countries," Singh told more than 2,000 delegates from 49 member countries.

"All countries in this region have a stake

in open trade," Singh said, and he called on developing countries to present a unified front in the current Uruguay round for GATT trade talks.

One delegate said after the speech that Singh's comments reflected New Delhi's irritation with the United States. "India is very much concerned by the Washington move," he said.

Despite the threat of US sanctions, Singh reiterated that India welcomes foreign investment in high technology areas, but ruled out a large-scale opening of the economy to foreign investors.

"Our policy towards foreign investment will be selective, yet there are wide areas where we welcome foreign investment," Singh said. "We need foreign investment in

high technology areas and where it helps our export efforts."

"India has in the past succeeded in maintaining a reasonably high level of investment, financed predominantly by domestic savings. This will continue," said the Indian leader.

Singh also hit out at a "growing tendency to set up exclusive trading blocs," comments clearly enunciating India's fears over the 1992 merger of Western Europe into single market.

India is among numerous developing countries that are concerned that the European move will reduce their exports. On aid to developing countries, Singh said development assistance has generally been inadequate and as a result, many poor

nations entered the 1990s with massive debts.

Kimimasa Tsurumizu, the president of the Asian Development Bank, said most bank members follow policies of liberalisation and trade expansion, giving priority to industrial deregulation and expansion of the private sector.

"Market-oriented economic policies in most developing member countries provide a strong foundation for continued highly satisfactory economic performance in the 1990s," said the bank president.

He said the Asian Development Bank must strengthen its assistance to the private sector, which in turn can act as an engine for growth.

The bank during the next two days was

scheduled to discuss several matters pertaining to its operation, including requests from India and China for concessional loans and the replenishment of bank resources.

The Asian Development Bank is an international partnership that boosted to 49 members with admission today of Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The bank aims to provide funds and technical assistance to member countries in the Asia-Pacific region and promote investment and foster economic growth.

The head of China's delegation, People's Bank of China president Li Guixian, has called on the bank to lift the freeze on \$400 million of loans imposed after the June 4 crackdown on a movement for freedom.

Bid to hike prices

Opec considering crude output cuts

GENEVA, May 2, (Reuters): Opec oil ministers began emergency talks today voicing hopes they could soon agree on production cuts to mop up a glut and raise prices.

The 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agree on one thing: they are producing too much oil and this has flooded the market and cut prices by 25 per cent.

But now they must face the difficult decision of which member state should turn down the taps and by how much?

In informal soundings, the Algerian president of Opec, Sadek Boussena, asked those countries which are exceeding their mandated quotas how much they would be prepared to contribute to a round of production cuts.

"There are many so many proposals but I think we will finish today or tomorrow," said the Iraqi Oil Minister, Issam Abdul-Rahim Al-Chalabi.

The talks began formally in the absence of the Oil Minister of Iran, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, whose aircraft was delayed.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, was said by delegates to be upset at being singled out. It says its policy is simply to defend its traditional share of just under 25 per cent of whatever Opec produces.

Cuts by other above-quota sellers, including Nigeria and Venezuela, could therefore be expected to bring an automatic decline in Saudi volume.

Iraq thinks Opec output may have to be cut as low as 22 million barrels per day (bpd) from a recent peak around 24.

Delegates said the Saudis seemed flexible but may think that Opec output in May and June at between 22.5 and 23 million would be a reasonable goal.

A statement yesterday by the Saudi Minister, Hisham Nazer, that he favoured higher prices, helped add 27 cents to New York futures for the US benchmark crude, West Texas Intermediate, which ended yesterday at \$18.81 per barrel.

Western industry sources said the Saudis, historic advocates of moderate oil prices, were not unhappy to see WTI drop in recent

weeks from near \$24 in January.

But delegates said Saudi Arabia now wants a stable market and favours measures later this year to solve the problem of over-production.

The 35-minute opening plenary session of the talks adjourned and was to resume this evening after more bilateral talks of the kind with which Opec deals are usually sorted out.

Founder Opec members Iraq and Iran, needing cash to rebuild after their Gulf war, and many debt-laden Third World states in and outside Opec are angry about the recent fall in prices.

Egypt, not an Opec member, is said by Middle East diplomats to have been furious at having to cut its prices by around \$2 in mid-April.

It is now gambling on a successful Opec meeting and has already raised oil prices 45 cents per barrel from May 1.

Meanwhile, Iran's official news agency Irna said today, it was unlikely Saudi Arabia would agree to a lower oil production quota, or Kuwait and the United Arab

Emirates (UAE) would significantly cut their crude output.

In a comment from Tehran, Irna said the three Gulf Arab producers were indifferent to the needs of other Opec members like Iran and Iraq which are hit hard by the slide in oil prices.

"The UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, being the prominent members of the organisation in the Gulf with the richest reserves, are indifferent about the situation and concerned more about their own status as the leading producers," it said.

"That Saudi Arabia will agree to a reduced quota for herself does not seem a likely development," the Irna said.

Irna said dwindling demand and high stockpiles in the United States meant oil prices would fall further if few members of the organisation stuck to their current output.

"Western experts maintain that the current meeting in Geneva will not significantly affect Opec oil supply, its only impact on the market being a more cautious business by oil dealers during the past two weeks," the agency said.

Dollar steady

LONDON, May 2, (Reuters): The dollar ended little changed today after another slack European session in a week interrupted by holidays in Europe and Japan.

Gold closed in London unchanged at \$349 an ounce.

Major share markets closed firmer in this trading.

"I think as though we've started the second half of a clear direction of a clear direction of a clear direction," said Jim O'Neill, international economist at Swiss Bank Corp. in London. "I've never seen anything like this."

Most European countries were shut yesterday for May Day.

Tokyo was closed on Monday and shut down again on Thursday and Friday as part of Japan's Golden Week festivities.

London's markets will be closed on Monday when Britain celebrates May Day.

Dealers said the holiday mood souped the current market of a clear direction of a clear direction of a clear direction.

The US leading indicators, a key barometer of future economic trends, rose 0.9 per cent in March, a sharp rebound on February's one per cent drop.

Share prices battered.

TAIPEI, May 2, (Reuters): Taiwan's Stock Market, unstable at the best of times, has fallen dramatically this week as rumours of financial collapse among the market's big players and hints of political instability take the toll on share investors.

Share prices, battered by two consecutive days of sharp losses, bottomed out again today, pushing the index down more than five per cent until a last-minute buy-in by shaken brokerage houses pulled the market off its lows.

The index finished down 160.39 points at 8,574.54, but brokers said the market, which had lost 1,090 points, or 11 per cent, since Saturday, was not out of the woods yet.

"Investors now will panic at anything. No one has faith in the market anymore," said Hsu Daw-Yi, vice president of King's Securities Investment consulting corporation.

The market's slide began on Saturday, when hints of a deepening rift between President Lee Teng-hui and Premier Lee Huan first began to surface in the local press.

Minimum wages hiked Morocco devalues currency

RABAT, May 2, (Reuters): Morocco has devalued the dirham by an average of 10 per cent, the country's central bank, Bank Al Maghrib, told commercial banks today.

The new rate against the dollar was 8.85 dirhams compared to 8.04 dirhams on April 25, when banks closed for six days because of public holidays. That represents a devaluation of about 9.15 per cent.

The French franc was now worth 1.57 dirhams against 1.41, and the pound sterling 14.53 dirhams against 13.14.

The devaluation was not publicly announced by the Finance Ministry. Commercial banks were informed of the new rates by Bank Al Maghrib in a telex message marked "very urgent."

The Moroccan authorities have been urged to devalue by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as part of a financial re-adjustment programme.

The programme is designed to straighten out the country's finances currently burdened by a foreign debt estimated by the World Bank at \$22 billion.

Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada was expected to

comment on the devaluation at a news conference later today.

Moroccan debt prices rose sharply on the secondary market for sovereign loans in response to the country's proposed rescheduling agreement last month with leading foreign bank creditors.

Under the agreement \$3.2 billion of debt due to commercial banks was rescheduled, 36 per cent over 20 years with 10 years' grace and the rest over 15 years with seven years' grace.

The devaluation is expected to boost exports after last year's trade deficit doubled to more than \$2 billion.

Exports fell in value by between five and six per cent and imports surged by 17 per cent, making for a deficit of 18 billion dirhams (\$2.3 billion at the old rate) compared to nine billion dirhams in 1988.

Meanwhile, Moroccan Minister of Employment Hassan Abbadi announced yesterday an increase of 10 per cent of the guaranteed minimum wages in the sectors of trade, industry, agriculture and liberal professions.

Egypt hikes crude prices

CAIRO, May 2, (Reuters): Egypt said today it had raised crude oil prices by 45 cents a barrel for all grades on May 1.

The announcement by the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation takes the prime grades Ras Bahar and Zeit Blends to \$14.30 a barrel.

The benchmark Suez Blend will now sell for \$14 a barrel, up from 13.55.

Egypt, which sets export prices twice a month in accordance with market trends, cut crude prices by \$1.95 a barrel for the second half of April.

Kuwait market Short dates active

KUWAIT, May 2, (Reuters): Short dates were active on the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market today, dealers said.

Overnight was well offered in the morning, and dealt at eight per cent, 8-1/8, and 8-1/2, but was well bid later in the day, they said. Tomorrow's next was well bid, as was one week, which dealt at 8-11/16, and was later being quoted around 8-3/4 8-1/2.

Less activity was seen in fixed dates, and three months was quoted at 8-3/4 8-5/8, and six and twelve months at 8-7/8 8-5/8. The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29344/54 to the dollar.

Technology sales to East bloc Bush proposes easing limits

WASHINGTON, May 2, (Reuters): President George Bush today proposed lifting restrictions on the sale of some high-technology items including personal computers and machine tools to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The White House said Bush wanted to trim the list of items on which the Western alliance has placed strict limits by a quarter from 120 to 90.

"Careful study indicates that most of the goods and technologies that we currently control to Eastern Europe and Soviet destinations are of low strategic value and should be decontrolled," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in announcing Bush's

proposal.

The proposal will be presented to members of the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Control (Cocom), primarily members of the Nato alliance.

Bush's call for an overhaul is certain to be well received by the other Cocom members, most of whom have already called for easing the trade restraints.

Bush would also make it easier to Eastern European countries to buy Western telecommunications equipment such as fibre optics and microwave while maintaining stricter limits on sale of these items to the Soviet Union.

Jetley outlines marketing strategy Air-India profit surges

Air-India has achieved an operating profit of over \$66.47 million — the highest ever in the airline's 57 year history, during the fiscal year 1989-90. This was announced by Rajan Jetley, managing director, Air-India at a press conference in Bombay yesterday.

Jetley, while giving the resume of Air-India's all round progress, said that the operating profit achieved is nearly 68.2 per cent higher than the operating profit (\$39.51 million) recorded in the preceding year 1988-89 and is up by about \$14.77 million compared to the hitherto highest ever operating profit (\$51.70 million) achieved in 1983-84.

The net profit is estimated at about \$32.64 million, Jetley said. Air-India had in the previous year made a net profit of \$25.70 million. The improved profitability has been achieved through a marketing strategy aimed at consolidation of the existing route structure, vigorous efforts to improve the yields, optimisation of handling revenue, strict monitoring of costs and prudent management of surplus funds, he said.

Whereas the capacity offered increased by 5 per cent during the year, the revenue has increased by an impressive 18 per cent — from \$715.13 million in 1988-89 to \$843.92 million in 1989-90 — because of significant improvement in the yield.

The yield, measured in terms of revenue tonne per km, increased to .51 cents from 0.44 cents in 1988-89 thus showing an improvement of 15 per cent. As a matter of fact, the yield achieved during 1989-90 has been the highest ever, Jetley said.

Air-India carried approximately 1.25 lakh more passengers during the year under review as compared to the previous year. The increase was also reflected in the executive class. Six sectors contributed to Air-India's rising profitability. The sectors are India — USA, India — Japan, India — Gulf.

Two of these sectors, namely India — Singapore and India — Africa have turned the corner and started showing profits from 1989-90.

The trend on three other sectors, India — Europe, India — UK, and India — Hong Kong is also heartening as losses on these sectors have now been considerably reduced.

Jetley said that some of the losing sectors would join the list of profitable ones in the coming year or two. Jetley pointed out that till a few years ago, Air-India's profitability relied heavily on the Gulf sector.

Jetley further stated that Air-India has also recorded an appreciable rise in the quantum of cargo carried. While in 1988-89 the cargo carried was 96,703 tonnes, it increased to 104,590 tonnes in 1989-90, a spurt of approximately 8 per cent.

Air-India's managing director expressed optimism at the airline achieving still greater "trides" in the coming year as the new corporate identity programme launched last year, enters the critical phase with product upgradation both on board and on ground.

While four aircraft are presently flying with the new colours, the entire fleet is expected to be retrofitted with new interiors — comfortable seats, super bins to provide more storage space for hand baggage, digitised music system, galleys for efficient service — by March 1991. Two A310s to be inducted in the fleet in August/September this year would enable Air-India to further improve the product to Japan, Osaka, Hong Kong, Gulf etc.

To give its marketing efforts a new thrust, Air-India is holding the first ever world sales conference for its sales personnel on May 25 — 26 1990 in Bombay. The thrust includes a series of steps to attract increased passenger traffic in first and executive class through penetration in newer markets worldwide.

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Jordan to get Kuwait Fund loan

AMMAN, May 2. (Agencies): The Jordanian Industrial Development Bank is to receive a loan of \$16.5 million from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development for financing projects in the private sector.

The agreement was signed here at the weekend by Jordan's Minister of Planning, Aouni Al Masri, and for the Fund by its director-general, Bader Al Humaidi, now here on a visit.

The latest loan brings the total amount lent by the Fund to Jordan to \$37.75 million.

The 17-year credit, which includes a grace period of five years, is to be repaid in 24 instalments at an annual interest rate of 3.5 per cent plus administrative costs.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian International Co-operation Ministry today disbursed a Kuwaiti loan to the Egyptian Iron and Steel Company to develop and boost its factories' production.

The company's board chairman Dr Ali Helmi Ali signed an agreement with the ministry's first undersecretary for Afro-Arab Co-operation Saad Bayumi by which the KD10 million loan, extended by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to the ministry, was reallocated to the company.

Bayumi said that the company will utilise that loan in developing a number of production lines in addition to purchasing modern electric and electronic equipment to increase steel production.

The project is expected to be completed by second half of 1992. The Kuwait Fund had loaned Egypt another KD10 million to develop its pharmaceutical industry and KD7 million to finance plans for protecting the Rashid coast recently.

American economic index up

WASHINGTON, May 2. (Reuters): The US index of leading indicators, the government's main barometers of future economic trends, rose 0.9 per cent in March, nearly reversing a sharp decline a month earlier, the Commerce Department said today.

The March gain in the index, which is designed to reveal the direction of the economy in six to nine months' time, followed a 1.0 per cent drop in February and was in line with the expectations of Wall Street economists.

Recent reports have shown that the economy is not as weak as previously believed, with gross national product growing at 2.1 per cent annual rate in the first three months of the year.

The manufacturing economy in particular has shown surprising vigour recently as industrial production rose solidly in March and the National Association of Purchasing Management index of economic activity reversed an 11-month decline in April and rose to its highest level in a year.

Indian rupee	17.01
Sri Lankan rupee	7.42
Pakistani rupee	13.50
Bangladesh taka	8.30
US dollar	29.95
Pound sterling	48.25
UAE dirham	0.8000
Deutsche mark	17.47
Japanese yen	0.01863

Asian economy growing at considerably higher rates

Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 2. Despite a decline in the overall growth rate for the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) developing member countries (DMCs), developing Asia outperformed other regions of the world by a healthy margin in 1989, growing at considerably higher rates than the world economy.

ADB report, cites a slowdown in growth rates in China, India and the newly industrialised economies (NIEs) as primary reason for slower growth in developing Asia.

Though the growth rate for the region came down from 9.3 per cent in 1988 to 5.4 per cent in 1989, it was much better than the 3.2 per cent recorded by the world economy as a whole. The star performer was South-east Asia which economy as a whole, recorded a vigorous 7.8 per cent and displaced the NIEs as the economies with the highest growth rate.

The report says the economic integration of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1992 combined with recent developments in Eastern Europe present both opportunities and challenges to the developing countries of Asia.

According to the report, informal finance plays an important role in mobilising savings and channelling credit to borrowers, thereby making a key contribution to the process of economic growth in developing Asia. The hall marks of economic policy in most Asian nations continue to be openness, market

UN agrees on economic plan to help Third World

UNITED NATIONS, May 2. (Reuters): The UN General Assembly yesterday adopted a landmark declaration aimed at boosting the economies of poor countries while acknowledging the importance of human rights and the environment.

It was the first time in decades the 160-member body agreed on principles for economic co-operation designed to guide future development programmes at the United Nations as well as in other forums.

The document, approved by consensus at the end of a special nine-day session, also backs efforts to integrate the new-born democracies of Eastern Europe into the world economy.

But it stresses this must not detract from the high priority placed on co-operation with the developing countries.

The document commits major indus-

trial countries to work towards sustained economic growth, lower interest rates, stable exchange rates and accessible markets.

Developed nations, in turn, are to work towards controlling inflation, promoting domestic and foreign investment, modernising their economies and increasing international competitiveness.

The environment is singled out for special emphasis, with developed nations urged to release additional economic resources to poorer countries and find ways of providing them with environmentally-sound technologies.

Although hailed by speakers as a major achievement, many countries stressed that the declaration represented a compromise that failed to satisfy varying demands.

Third World nations, which carry a collective \$1.3 trillion debt, were par-

ticularly frustrated by the defeat of their recommendations to forgive monies owed by the more than 40 least developed nations in the world.

However, assembly president Joseph Garba of Nigeria called the declaration "a watershed in the history of international economic co-operation." But he said all countries would have to "lead credence to our collective words by translating them into national actions and policies."

The United States, which fought to the very end to prevent what it called "prescriptions" for economic development, said the world community was "in the midst of a fundamental rethinking" on necessary approaches to development.

But US delegate Edward Marks said: "We are all aware that perfection is found only in heaven and a document of this complexity and importance

must inevitably be a compromise."

The United States disassociated itself with a target for industrial nations to devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development aid and 0.15 per cent to the least developed countries.

While the European Economic Community approves of this goal, only four states to date — the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway — have honoured it.

Gone in the declaration was any call for a radical redistribution of the world's wealth made at a similar conference in 1975 and appeals since then. Instead the document refers to open-market policies and private capital flows.

Following are the main points from a 38-item declaration adopted by the special UN General Assembly session on economic co-operation yesterday.

■ Debt — A "durable and broad" solution to debt problems of developing nations should be given urgent attention with a view to an early solution. Existing initiatives should be broadly implemented. Relief measures should aim at "vigorous growth" and address all types of bilateral debt. (Proposals for forgiving debt among the poorest nations were dropped, partly to get US support for the final document).

■ Aid targets — Developed nations should give 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to development aid with 0.15 per cent to the poorest nations. (Washington disassociated itself from this section).

■ Environment — The document calls for effective action to protect the environment, taking into account specific needs of developing countries. It asks for additional resources to poorer countries and ways of providing

them with environmentally-sound technologies.

■ Multilateral financing institutions — They should be provided with adequate resources to support long-term development, facilitate structural reform and finance programmes to alleviate "social consequences" of this adjustment for poor and vulnerable groups.

■ Peace dividend — Countries should seek to reduce military expenditures and investigate the feasibility of channelling some of these savings for development.

■ Trade — Protectionism should be resisted everywhere. International agreements should be "balanced" and increase market access for exports of developing countries.

■ Commodities — The document stresses the need for better functioning of commodity markets under "more stable and predictable conditions."

Move to settle IMF row

Pressure mounting on UK and France

LONDON, May 2. (Reuters): Pressure is mounting on Britain and France to settle a row over their ranking in the IMF through a trade-off which could lead to a new development bank for Eastern Europe being sited in London.

European monetary officials said the most likely way of ending the long-simmering dispute, one of several obstacles delaying an increase in International Monetary Fund quotas, would be to link the two issues at IMF talks starting in Washington this weekend.

"It would be naive to expect that the two issues could not be connected," said one senior central banker.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major, now on a tour of European capitals, is expected to go into the meeting of the IMF pursuing a tough line that there is no reason to link two unrelated issues.

But officials say pressure is mounting on both nations from industrial and developing countries to end the dispute in case it



John Major

derails negotiations on boosting IMF quotas.

"I would be surprised if there were not agreement on quotas," said the central banker. "It would be sufficiently embarrassing to report failure again, that pressure must be mounting to bridge the gap."

Negotiations on the IMF quota rise are expected to domin-

ate next Monday's meeting of the policy-making interim committee although the basis of a deal could be resolved on Sunday when the Group of Seven leading industrial nations meet in Washington.

While there is now a broad consensus that quotas should be raised by about 50 per cent from the current 90 billion SDR (\$117 billion) to help the fund to meet the challenges of the Third World debt crisis and Eastern Europe, the Franco-British row is unresolved.

The dispute has its roots in Japan's widely accepted bid to boost its shareholding in the IMF to second place — now occupied by Britain — from its fifth place ranking.

Britain has offered to drop down the rankings and cut its quota to six per cent from a current 6.9 per cent, placing it fourth behind the United States, Japan and West Germany.

But France has refused to accept its relegation from fourth to fifth, since under this formula its share of quotas would be only

about five per cent.

Monetary officials believe Latin American nations, angered that the row is delaying strengthening the IMF, will call on its managing director Michel Camdessus or Canadian Finance Minister and interim committee chairman Michael Wilson to broker a compromise which would put both nations equal fourth.

Officials say the most likely way of making that compromise would be to draw into the talks the proposed European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), a French-inspired project to channel funds into reforming East bloc states.

Neither the bank's president nor its location has been settled but one compromise would be for it to be sited in London.

In return, Paris would try to exact fourth equal ranking in the IMF with both nations at about 5.5 per cent plus presidency of the EBRD for President Francois Mitterrand's personal adviser, Jacques Attali.

Senate warns Bush

US-Soviet trade accord

WASHINGTON, May 2. (Reuters): The US Senate warned President George Bush on Tuesday not to submit a US-Soviet trade pact for approval unless Moscow lifted its economic embargo against Lithuania and entered negotiations on the republic's independence.

The warning was attached as an amendment to a bill containing economic aid for Nicaragua and Panama and funds for many domestic programmes. The vote was 73-24.

The Senate later passed the bill, which must now be reconciled with a measure approved earlier by the House.

The United States and the Soviet Union last week hammered out the basic terms of a trade agreement expected to be the centrepiece of the five-day superpower summit in the United States starting on May 30.

Although the Senate amendment was not legally binding upon Bush, it sent a clear cautionary signal that a trade agreement would run into trouble in Congress unless Moscow changes its policy on its dispute with Lithuania.

It also indicated dissatisfaction with Bush's reluctance to press Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev too hard. Conservatives have urged Bush to take a

tougher line in supporting the breakaway Baltic Republic.

The amendment, introduced by Senator Alfonse D'Amato, stated that implementation of a trade agreement "would constitute implicit support for Soviet activities in Lithuania" such as cutting delivery of oil and natural gas.

It urged Bush not to submit an accord to the Senate for approval until the economic embargo is lifted and until Moscow enters negotiations "with the intended result the Soviet recognition of the independence of the government of Lithuania in an orderly and expeditious manner."

The US-Soviet trade accord was announced in Paris on Thursday. A three-year agreement would mark the first of two steps toward meeting Moscow's demand for most favoured nation status, which would restore trade benefits that Washington has denied the Soviet Union since 1951.

The second step would require Moscow to ease legal restrictions on emigration.

Passage of the Lithuania amendment cleared the way for the Senate to complete action on the \$3.4 billion spending bill that includes \$300 million in economic aid for Nicaragua and \$420 million for Panama.

Higher profits for Chrysler

DETROIT, May 2. (Reuters): Chrysler Corp. the number three US automaker, said on Tuesday that cost cuts undertaken last year helped it make a \$71 million profit in the first quarter of this year even though car sales plummeted.

The results came as a pleasant surprise to Wall Street where some industry analysts had expected the automaker would barely break even or even post a small loss.

Chrysler stock closed up 75 cents at \$15.25 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Chrysler posted a profit even as sales fell to \$7.56 billion, compared with \$9.66 billion in the 1989 first quarter, when the automaker had net earnings of \$351 million.

The earnings for the latest quarter were the equivalent of 32 cents a share, compared with \$1.50 a share in the 1989 quarters.

"It seems the cost-reduction programme really is taking effect," said John Casca, analyst with Wertheim Schroder and Co. who had expected Chrysler to report earnings of about 10 cents a share.

The company said earnings were hurt by high incentive costs and lower production volume.

Industry's hopes, fears aired at trade fair

HANOVER, West Germany, May 2. (Reuters): The world's largest trade fair opened in Hanover today with West German industry keen to profit from German unification but still fretting over the potential costs.

The growing together of West and Eastern Europe is a big challenge for German industry, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said at the fair's opening ceremony.

His government believes private industry holds the key to revitalising East Germany. But West German industrialists, enjoying bumper profits, still believe them will have to step in to bear some of the burden.

East German industry stands at the beginning of a difficult transitional phase, said Helmut Werner, head of the truck division of West Germany's biggest company, Daimler-Benz AG.

Daimler signed a Co-operation agreement with IFA, East Germany's largest truck maker, in March and plans to unveil its first jointly designed truck prototype on Thursday.

Although Daimler can help East Germany to modernise its products, Werner said West German industry could not restore East German industry's financial solvency.

East Germany's centrally planned economy allowed companies to run up huge debts with the state bank. Many of these firms will find repayments difficult once they are converted into West German marks under German monetary union on July 2.

The old debts cannot be handled by West or East German industry, Daimler-Benz's Werner told reporters.

His concerns were echoed at the same news conference by IFA officials.

It won't be possible for many East German companies to survive monetary union without government help, said Lothar Heilmann, chief executive of the East German truck maker.

East Germany's government has said that 20 per cent of the country's industry has no future once it has to compete directly against Western firms after monetary union.

But Kohl said West German industry could hardly be in better shape to deal with East Germany's economic woes.

German industry has been growing for the last seven years at an increasingly dynamic rate, he said.

West Germany, written off only a few years ago as the slow man of Europe, would match up economic growth of four per cent this year, one of the highest rates in Europe.

Many West German industrialists at the Hanover fair share Kohl's optimism that the country can easily cope with revamping the moribund economy of its Eastern neighbour.

It can only get better. We mustn't be discouraged by short-term doubts, said Dieter Spethmann, managing board chairman of Thyssen AG, West Germany's largest steel and engineering group.

Account surplus shrinks Exchange reserves dip

TOKYO, May 2. (Agencies): Japan's foreign exchange reserves fell \$472 million last month to \$73 billion, the Japanese Ministry of Finance announced today.

An official at the Ministry said the figure represents the minimum level in two years, but matches the same figure recorded in October 1987.

The decrease was caused by the Japan Bank which intervened to sell the dollar to back the falling yen.

The official said that due to the yen's sagging in April, the US had taken Japan's position as the biggest country with reserves for this year.

In February Japan's foreign exchange reserve reached \$80.4 billion, while the US foreign exchange reserves were \$75.1 billion.

Paced by growing imports, Japan's current account surplus in fiscal 1989 decreased sharply from the preceding year, marking the third straight year-to-year fall, the Finance Ministry announced today.

The ministry's preliminary data said the surplus plunged 30.8 per cent to \$53.497 billion, following a 8.5 per cent fall in 1988 and a 10.3 per cent decline in 1987.

The current account covers both merchandise and services trade. The main factor behind the decreasing surplus was that growth of imports exceeded that of exports, trimming the merchandise trade surplus, a ministry official said.

The trade balance shrank 26.4 per cent from a year ago to \$70.178 billion. Exports gained a modest 0.2 per cent to \$267.86 billion while imports surged 14.9 per cent to \$197.682 billion, the ministry report said.

In fiscal 1988, exports gained 14.5 per cent to \$267.365 billion while imports jumped 23.4 per cent to \$172.063 billion.

The invisible trade deficit decreased to \$12.71 billion from \$13.521 billion.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 30173.64 (+483.81)	Mazda M C	872	+13
Volume: 480 mil shs	Mitsubishi Corp	1410	+20
Yen exchange rate: 158.55	Mitsubishi Estate	1610	+20
Names of stock	Mitsubishi H I	920	+16
Advantest Corp	Mitsui B C	1760	+10
Ajinomoto	Mizuho Corp	1680	+40
Alps Elec	Mochida Ph	3950	+120
Amada	Mori Seiki Co	3590	+40
Asahi Chem Ind	NEC Corp	1460	+10
Asahi Glass	Nikon Corp	1380	+10
C. Itoh Co	Nippon Shin Co	1110	+10
Canon Inc	Nippon Steel Corp	590	+10
Casio Comp	Nippondenso	2130	+30
Dai Nippon Printing	Nitaku Corp	1410	0
Daiichi Seiyaku	Onuma Sec	2200	+70
Dainippon Ph	Okuma Mach	1580	0
Daiwa Bank	Onward K Co	1970	+20
Daiwa Ind	Orix Corp	4210	+40
Daiwa Ind	Pioneer Elec Co	5950	-70
Daiwa Ind	Renova Look Inc	1850	0
Daiwa Ind	Sanyo Elec Co	852	+12
Daiwa Ind	Secom Co, Ltd	6380	+60
Daiwa Ind	Shimizu Corp	1600	+30
Daiwa Ind	Shindengen Elec	1060	+30
Daiwa Ind	Sony Corp	8520	-130
Daiwa Ind	Sunimoto Elec Ind	1470	0
Daiwa Ind	S. Metal Ind	604	+14
Daiwa Ind	Tokai Chemical	1820	+30
Daiwa Ind	TDK Corp	6900	-160
Daiwa Ind	Tokai Marine & Fire	1490	+10
Daiwa Ind	Tokyo Elec Power	4210	+30
Daiwa Ind	Tokyo Electron Ltd	3960	+20
Daiwa Ind	Toshiba Corp	1860	+20
Daiwa Ind	Toshiba Ind	812	+12
Daiwa Ind	Toshiba Ind	812	+12
Daiwa Ind	Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Midwest), Bahrain		

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India's agricultural production slows

orientation and high rates of investment which facilitate the introduction of new technology. A factor of emerging but far-reaching significance is the widening scope of intra-Asian trade.

The "Outlook", published annually since 1989, analyses recent trends and short and medium term prospects for the bank's developing member countries. It surveys major policy issues and economic performance both by sub-region and by individual country.

The report says in China, where double digit growth had been sustained for two years, 1989 bore the full brunt of extensive austerity measures. Inflation eased but growth declined to a mere four per cent from 10.9 per cent in 1988. Growth also declined in the NIEs, from 9.4 per cent to 8.4 per cent as the rise in domestic demand failed to compensate fully for slower export expansion.

The Outlook points out that in the major countries of South-east Asia, the ability to sustain the pace of economic activity in 1989, despite slower growth in world trade and generally softer commodity prices, stems from both the effectiveness of policy reforms which improved efficiency and from continued strong export growth.

In South Asia, economic growth fell dramatically from 8.5 per cent in 1988 to 4.4 per cent in 1989. This was in part because of the slower expansion of agricultural production in India. The country had a remarkable recovery year in 1988 but the next year saw it

return to a more modest trend rate of almost five per cent.

The report projects a marginal increase in the overall economic growth in the DMCs to 5.9 per cent in 1990 and 6.3 per cent in 1991 assuming there is no recession in the world economy and that normal weather conditions prevail.

Assessing the overall impact of Europe's economic integration on Asia, the report says improved efficiency within the EEC will make its products more competitive with the imported goods and tend to dampen prospects for trade with Asia. But the reduction of barriers to the circulation of goods within the EEC, such as the elimination of national quotas, should benefit Asian exporters as well as producers within the EEC by giving them access to wider markets.

Conversely, Asia faces significant risks from economic integration. Despite assurances that the average level of external protection will not be increased as national tariffs are converted to a common EEC structure, fears remain that non-tariff barriers in the more restrictive countries may be adopted by the EEC as a whole, increasing the average level of external protection.

According to the report, should protectionism increase, it is likely that there would be an intensification of direct investment in the EEC, particularly from the NIEs and Japan, which have tended to neglect the EEC in favour of the United States and South-east

Asia.

The report says the process of reform which has distinguished economic policy in the region in recent years continued in 1989. Most NIEs and South-east Asian nations have striven to improve competitiveness in the industrial sector by fostering competition in domestic markets, maintaining open policies with respect to foreign investment and trade and implementing various other measures to spur productivity growth.

It observes that the dramatic rise in intra-Asian trade and investment in recent years is likely to have a strong influence on developing Asia's economies in the 1990s.

In the section on India, the report stresses that unless further liberalisation efforts are undertaken, it may be difficult for the country to attain substantial improvement in industrial efficiency.

According to it, in view of the already high saving rate in India, future economic growth depends largely on more efficient utilisation of existing capital. In the industrial sector, the government has sought to achieve this by a number of measures to liberalise the industrial and trade policy regime. However, the industrial sector is still highly regulated, with many constraints on free market activity.

As a result, it says, the innovative spirit of the private sector is, to some extent, repressed and a competitive business environment is not ensured. Trade reforms undertaken so far are not sufficient to put exporters on an equal

footing with competitors in the world market. Quantitative restrictions cover a large share of imports while tariff protection remains high, it says.

The report sees inadequate physical infrastructure, high population growth and increasing degradation of environment as the long-term problems which India must pay serious attention to. But India's most pressing immediate economic problems are the large deficits in the budget and in the balance of payments. These have increased significantly in the 1980s and are becoming a major constraint on economic growth, it says.

The report calls on India to pay continued attention to poverty alleviation. Although the ultimate solution to the poverty problem will come from improved overall economic growth, efforts toward a more equitable distribution of income and better social services for the poor are also required, it stresses.

On the whole, the report says there are undoubtedly grounds for cautious optimism for developing Asia as a whole. But it would be irresponsible to ignore the deep poverty still afflicting millions, especially in South Asia.

"Exciting changes thus lie ahead for developing Asia. To sustain rapid growth in the coming decade, the region must pursue and adapt the formula for success which it has followed in the past, the key ingredients of which are the continuation of market oriented policy adjustments, upgrading of its technological base, and the vigorous development of new markets," the report adds.



A donkey provides the engine for a trip into Goulmine, a typical town of southern Morocco.



A camel catches a lift from a mechanical beast near Tan-Tan, Morocco.

Where the camels take a ride!

Tan-Tan, Morocco

By George D. Moffett III

TAN-TAN, Morocco (CSM): The road from Agadir winds around southernmost range of the Atlas Mountains and into a Morocco that is all but forgotten.

A world away from the colourful markets of Marrakech and Moorish castles of Fez, life on the edge of the desert is a rough, picturesque anachronism in a high-tech world.

Following the pattern of centuries, desert Berbers, descendants of nomads who lived here before Islamic conquerors swept across North Africa in the 7th century, gather grain by hand and tend flocks that survive on the sparse offerings of a withered-looking, hardscrabble landscape.

Here and there, reminders of the 20th century intrude: a television antenna atop an adobe house; a pickup truck loaded with a gangly camel. Further south, in the disputed Western Sahara, the longest conveyor belt in the world carries the region's one

plentiful resource — phosphate, used for fertilizer — to waiting ships.

But for the most part, the desert people have learned to survive on little in a land that offers little.

Anciently, caravans used to hug the coastal region, stopping to rest and replenish their supplies at fortified oases before launching out into the desert. Today, in towns like Tan-Tan and Goulmine, the camels of modern nomads mingle with jeeps from the other Morocco north of the mountains.

These remote places seem never to have seen a tourist. But Bedouin shepherds, clearly experienced at bargaining for tips after being photographed by visitors from far-off places, convey another impression.

The forbidden steppe land near the coast is a bridge that links the lush mountains with sandscapes that abut the deserted beaches and high cliffs of the Atlantic coast.

Together, they constitute a still-exotic aspect of modern Moroccan life.



Desert nomads still herd camels from place to place in southern Morocco, often along roadways that also carry jeeps.

150th birthday Maoris assert rights in year of anniversary

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: The people of New Zealand are celebrating the country's 150th birthday this year.

But the celebration is tempered by the simmering grievances of many Maoris, the country's indigenous people, who say that while whites might think the anniversary of their arrival in these South Pacific islands is worth commemorating, native New Zealanders do not.

"We are now one people," Queen Victoria's representative told the Maori chiefs when they signed a treaty at Waitangi, ceding sovereignty to the British crown on Feb. 6, 1840. The treaty of Waitangi guaranteed the Maoris rights to their land, forests, fisheries and customs. These pledges have not been honored, however, and Victoria's descendant, Queen Elizabeth II, admitted with regret understatement when she came to Waitangi for the celebration on Feb. 6 that the treaty "has been imperfectly observed."

Over the last century and a half, the white community has by one means or another taken most of the Maori land, forest, and fisheries. More than that, New Zealand's 400,000 Maoris, who represent 12.5 per cent of the population, are disproportionately represented in the lower income groups, prisons, and unemployment lines.

This anniversary year has focused attention on efforts by the Maoris to assert themselves and right the wrongs of the past.

An extremist minority, at least a couple of whom have been to Libya, want to expel all the pakeha (Europeans), and talk of militant action. Despite grave concerns about the Feb. 6 party, this militancy went only as far as a young woman throwing a wet black T-shirt at the queen amid cries of "Go home."

Even the moderate majority of Maoris, who were appalled at demonstrations against Queen Elizabeth, want their land returned, or compensation paid, and other grievances settled.

The Waitangi tribunal, a body set up by the government to investigate Maori complaints, has been swamped with applications for hearings, and about 70 per cent of the country is subject to land claims.

As a result, both races have become anxious and suspicious of each other. Europeans, who do not hear repeated assurances that no privately owned land will be handed back, fear being sold out by a government that is striving to solve Maori grievances.

Moderate Maoris fear a white backlash against affirmative action and government handouts for exclusive Maori health, welfare, and job-training programmes.

As Maori claims grow, and the government bends over backward to meet them, even sympathetic pakehas fear the matter is getting out of hand. A number of Europeans fearing eventual racial trouble, have left the country.

"What's really happened in this area," said Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer, "is that Maori expectations have risen, and they have risen to unreasonable levels."

Chief Judge Eddie Durie, chairman of the Waitangi tribunal, agreed that large-scale return of land was impracticable and the economy could not afford massive compensation. A compromise is needed, he said, along with long-term strategies to assure a better future for the Maoris.

There is a major focus on unity and working together as 1990 celebrations continue in every city and community.

But many recall the chilling comments of two opposing politicians, even more relevant today than when uttered in 1988.

"This is the last chance we have to get race relations right," said Winston Peters, a Maori and the opposition national party's spokesman on Maori affairs. "If we do not confront it now, in 10 years there will be violence in our streets and the race riots of Watts, Toxteth, and Soweto will have their New Zealand equivalent."

Mike Moore, foreign minister and No. 3 in the ruling Labour Cabinet, said, "New Zealand has reached a flash point in its history. We are becoming a society that threatens to go rotten before it's ripe. We are in a race against time."

Switzerland: more animals on trade ban list

A FURTHER 20 animals and more than 90 plants are now subject to a ban on international trade as new measures under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) came into effect this month. Trade in 760 animal and 22 plant species will be controlled.

"It is always disappointing to have to take such strict measures," said Eugene Lapointe, general secretary of the convention, "because most of the time that signifies that a species of our natural heritage is threatened with extinction. One of CITES' goals is to reduce to zero the number of species endangered because of trade, and there remains a lot to be done before we succeed."

Bolswana, China, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe expressed reservations on the ivory trade ban. These African countries do not see the elephant as endangered in their territories. China entered a reservation. So did South Africa but it has imposed a voluntary one-year ban on the trade with immediate effect. The UK entered a reservation on behalf of Hong Kong but this will remain in force for only six months. PANOS.

Glenda Jackson slips into new political role

LONDON (CSM): Glenda Jackson has built a reputation as one of Britain's most accomplished actresses by voicing other peoples' words on stage and screen. Now, she must speak lines of her own.

But as the Labour Party's prospective parliamentary candidate in the London constituency of Hampstead, the two-time Oscar winner is not a loss for something political to say.

Within minutes of her selection to fight for a seat currently held by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservatives, Miss Jackson offered a taste of the fighting spirit she hopes will propel her into the House of Commons.

"The way we are treating our children at the moment is a disgrace," she declares. "Teenagers are sleeping on pavements in cardboard boxes, the old are being ignored, the sick neglected. I've never been ashamed of being British before. We have to do something to end this travesty of a government."

The choice of Jackson is a major victory for the opposition Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, who sees her as exemplifying the political and social attitudes he wants to bring the government.

"She will help our attempts to broaden the party's traditional working-class power base," says a Kinnock aide, pointing to Labour's bid for the middle class vote at the general election which must be held in the next two years.

To win selection, she had to convince a Hampstead Labour Party panel that her credentials were better than those of another woman who is a member of Labour's "hard left." Her opponent tried to characterize her as an example of Labour's new "sanitized" image.

The local party however chose Jackson, one of her supporters said, "because of her views and the way she expresses them. She has the right ideas on social issues. She is passionate, but not immoderate."

Jackson says her main political interests lie in health, education, and housing — issues on which the Conservative government is frequently criticized.

The current arithmetic of British politics appears to favour her for the Hampstead battle. The Labour Party is running some 25 percentage points ahead of the Conservatives in opinion polls. Jackson would need only a modest swing in Labour's favour to be able to defeat Oliver Letwin, her Conservative opponent.

Jackson is scathing about Letwin, a conservative who worked in Thatcher's policy think tank. "He comes over as one of those Tories who speak about expressing concern for the elderly, not by raising their pensions but by giving them a jar of homemade jam."

Labour strategists expect her to be effective on the hustings. "She has a tremendous commitment to the



Glenda Jackson: speaking lines of her own.

things the party stands for," says Peter Mandelson, the party's director of communications. "I have heard her speak at rallies, and she can fire an audience. Any party trying to gain a seat in a marginal (race) would take her candidacy very seriously."

Maldives: people rise to sea level threat

THOUSANDS of schoolchildren and citizens of the tiny Indian Ocean archipelago country of the Maldives rallied recently in its capital, Male, to speak out, sing and peacefully demonstrate their concern about the threat of a rise in sea level to their homeland, reports Nalaka Gunawardene from Male.

They carried slogans in English and Divehi — the mother tongue of the Maldivians — with messages such as "Sink me not, save me!" "Save our seas!" "Maldives too young to die!" and "Hands off the coral reef!" One little girl's placard said simply: "Are we too many?"

Several young boys and girls delivered forceful speeches about coast and coral conservation and

marine and atmospheric pollution prevention. Songs were sung about caring for nature.

The demonstration was held to coincide with a government meeting called to debate what action the world needs to take to protect small low-lying states from being engulfed by projected rising waters resulting from global warming. The rally was organised by several environmental and community-related organisations and reflects a coming of age of such citizens' groups in this nation of 200,000 people.

They are right to be concerned. If predictions are correct and the world's sea levels rise in the next decades, the Maldives and several other small island nations

will be among the first to be affected: they are low-lying land masses where the highest point is less than six feet (two metres) above sea level. In the next century, the republic's 1,190 islands could be submerged or dramatically reduced in land area.

At the end of the conference, the environment ministers of 15 small island nations, from the Indian and Pacific oceans and the Caribbean and Mediterranean seas, called on the industrialised nations — mainly responsible for the problem — to make available resources and technology to the most vulnerable small states to help them meet the challenge of climate change. PANOS.

Who's that girl?

Maybe, the new Madonna

By Jane Fletcher

WHO'S that girl?

That's the question everyone asks when they hear the sexy voice of the girl set to topple Madonna as the new queen of pop.

Ana Rodriguez is only thirteen years old, but she's established a reputation as a formidable new singing talent.

And now she's being helped along the road to fame by none other than the influential producer John "Jellybean" Benitez, the man who guided Madonna's early career.

Ana says: "I think Madonna is a brilliant singer and for people to compare me with her is the greatest compliment in the world. I really admire what she does and it would be such a thrill to be as famous as she is."

And the American teenager is obviously delighted to have attracted the attention of such a big name in the music business. She says: "Jellybean has been absolutely wonderful. He's given me loads of advice and he's even remixed a version of my debut single, Shy Boys."

The Benitez magic touch has already helped the single shoot to number nine in the US dance charts and now music fans in England are hopping to its pulsating beat.

And Ana's record label, Epic, are convinced she will soon be the most talented female in the business. A spokesman says: "Jellybean spotted Ana's enormous potential and she really has got what it takes to make it to the top."

"She's got an exceptional voice, good looks and a marvellous personality. She's also a very professional performer. Her first album is much more exciting than Madonna's debut album and Ana has a very mature attitude for someone so young."

For Ana, it's all a dream come true. "Ever since I was a little girl, I have always wanted to be famous. I used to sing pop songs around the house all the time and now I can hardly believe I've made a record which has done so well in the charts."

Like Madonna, Ana adores performing in front of a live audience and is never intimidated by the large crowd she now attracts. She adds: "I just live for the applause. There's no better feeling in the world than singing and dancing on stage. It just feels so natural."

But unlike her idol, Ana isn't going to strut

around in little more than just her underwear. "I don't want to be as raucous as Madonna," she says, "because I want people to recognise me for my voice and not just the way I look."

But her sultry looks have already attracted a lot of attention. With her long dark hair, lithe figure and olive skin she has the sexy qualities of Madonna. And fan mail is coming in by the sackload.

Yet, there's no chance of Ana falling victim to the pressure of having too much, too soon. To protect her from people cashing in on her success she has recruited the most caring manager she could hope for — her father Miguel.

She says: "Dad is looking after my career and business interests at the moment and both he and my mum have been very supportive. They like the single and are proud of what I've achieved so far. But without them, I couldn't have done anything."

In fact, it was Ana's dad who was instrumental in getting his daughter's career off the ground. Ana recalls: "When I was nine years old, Pat Armstrong, the President of Parc Records, heard a tape of me singing some pop songs. He thought I might be good enough to make a record, but he had to get my dad's permission first."

"Fortunately, after some persuading, dad agreed and that was the best day of my life."

Now there's no stopping the girl whose stunning vocal range may knock Madonna off the top. Film offers are pouring in to the home she shares with her family in Orlando Florida, she is recognised wherever she goes and she's started to mix with top stars like George Michael.

But life in the limelight isn't all plain sailing. Ana's hectic work schedule means she has no time for boyfriends and when she's not wowing fans on stage, or recording new songs, she has to catch up on all her school work.

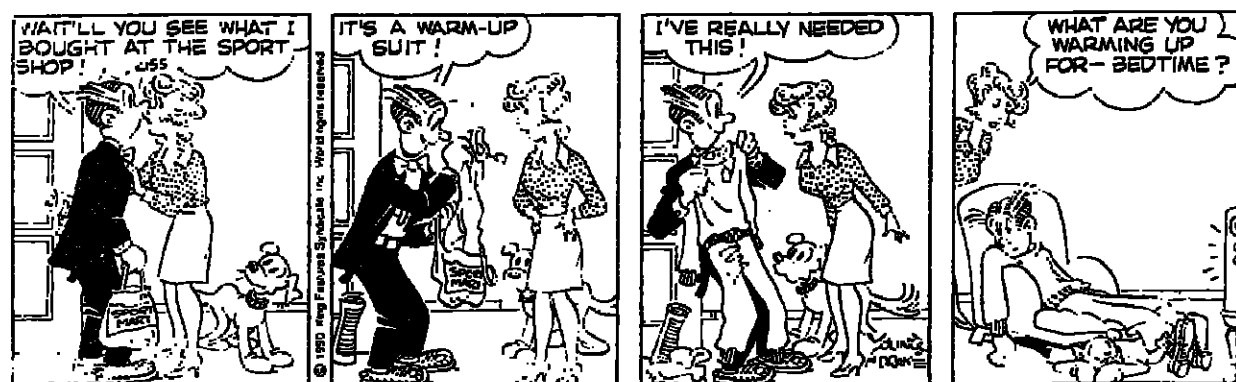
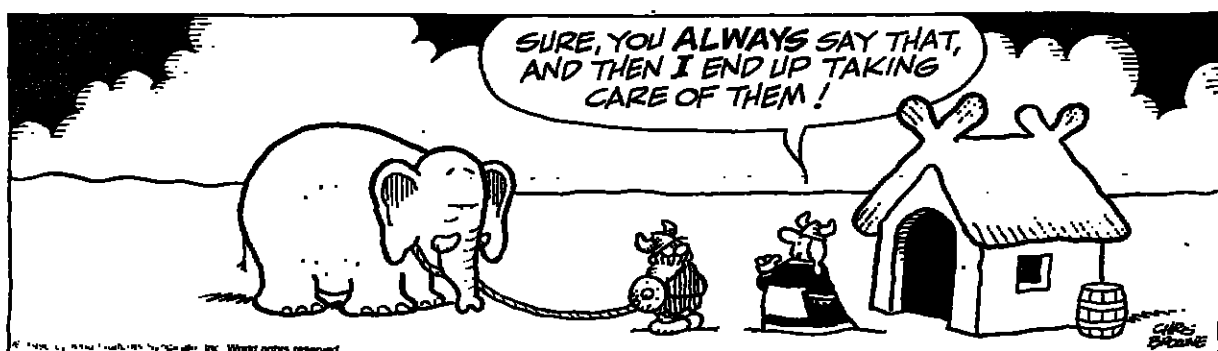
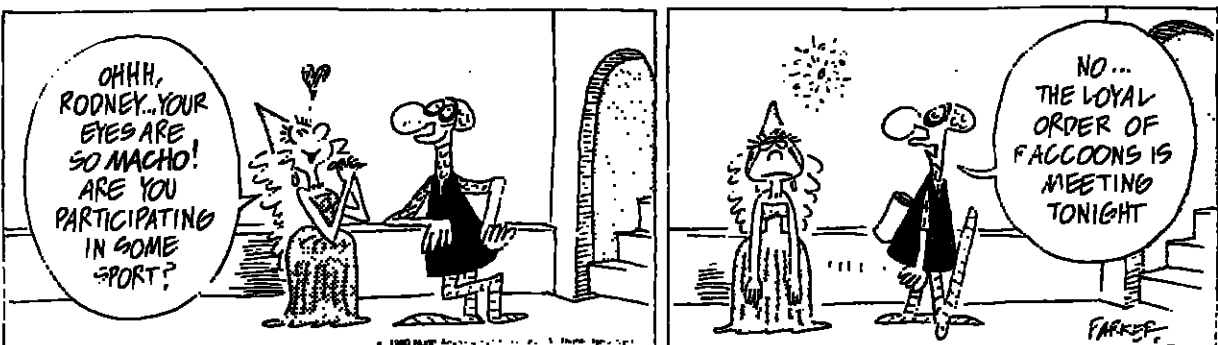
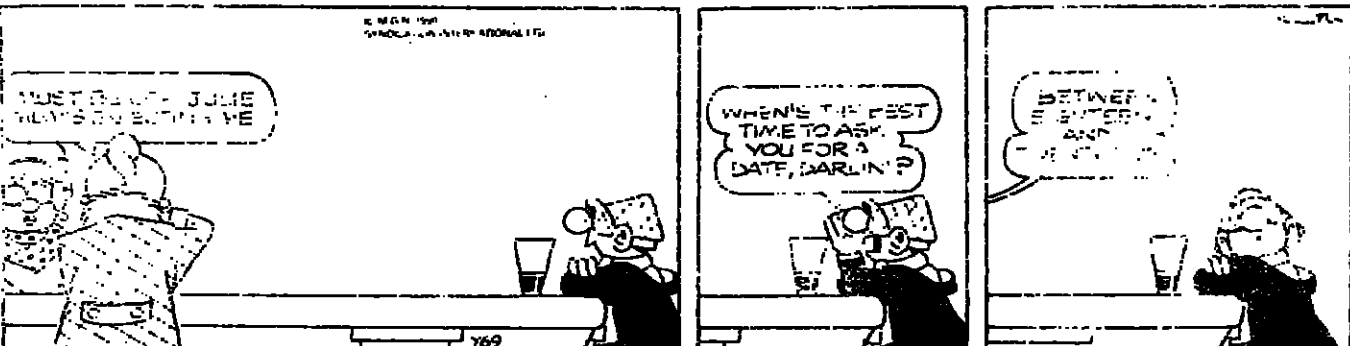
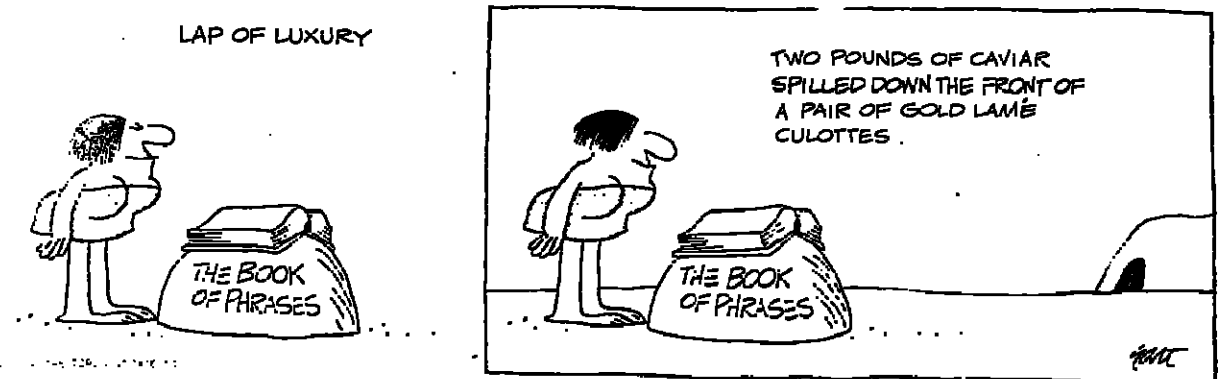
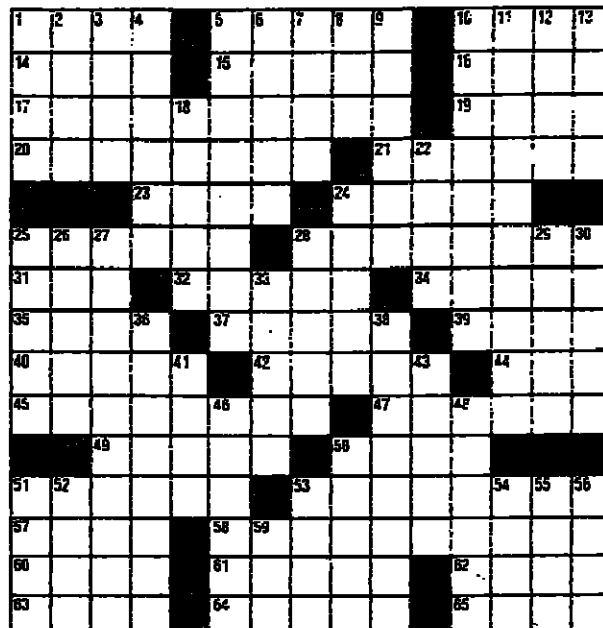
She admits: "It can be hard work trying to fit everything into one day, but I'm not complaining. And to make sure I don't miss out on my studies, I'm going to have a tutor to accompany me when I travel abroad in the future."

"If my ambition comes true, in five years time I'll be doing all the things Madonna is doing now, like making films and records. And I'd like to appear on television too."

But Ana won't be cast as a material girl. She promises: "I'm not interested in how much money I could earn. All I want to do is sing."



Sultry 13-year-old Ana Rodriguez is tipped to become the new Madonna.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMH** — By Bill Hoebst**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Alan Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****E.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Fortson & John Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Group of Swedish singers
 - Soc. scientists
 - Khmeim's predecessor
 - Gaity
 - French composer Erik
 - Garr of the screen
 - Very determined
 - Have the right to
 - Increasing substance
 - Chemical compounds
 - Ingredient in a rickety
 - Give light
 - Jose de — Spanish painter
 - Quote improperly
 - Country of 51 Down: Abbr.
 - Pillar
 - Home of the Norse gods
 - Piece of jewelry
 - Advantages
 - Normandy town
 - Down source
 - Russian statesman
 - Ames and Asner
 - Explicit
 - Entertainer Renee
 - 17th cen. Dutch artist Jan
 - Baseball's Speaker
 - Type of fuel
 - Milk acids
 - Borscht vegetable
 - Footholds
 - Wings
- DOWN**
- "— en Rose"
 - Knockout site
 - Sparks and Beatty
 - Les — Unis
 - Blind part
 - Turkish title
 - Ran, as madras
 - Part of a necklace
 - Magistrate in ancient Rome
 - Judge
 - Work with wood
 - Sioux speaker
 - Winter Anais
 - George and Ench
 - Marks with channels
 - School official
 - Commedia dell'arte
 - Speeds
 - Follows a cookbook direction
 - Isolated hill
 - Waistcoat
 - Prepares
 - Long, low, and "near"
 - Paroquet
 - Setting of a Vaughn novel
 - Johnson of the Lakers
 - Mark over a Spanish "n"
 - Gnawed away
 - Newman of the news
 - Substances used in jelly-making
 - Potatoes and pasta
 - Nothing to Pierre
 - One of the Sibylls
 - Inadequate
 - Willow rods
 - Expressed without words
 - Abba — Part of TV
 - Volcanic output
 - Ereann: Irish legislature
 - Ferber of "Show Boat"
 - NCO
 - Near a br

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

G A M U T W A S P A H A B
 O M E G A A G N I N O I D E
 S M E A R G O A L A R I A
 H O R N I S W I G G L E N O S
 D I A I N A R E S I T
 T I A M A L I E A F R A I D
 A B A S T I L I O S O F T Y
 P U T S T H O R N T R I U E
 A T T A I R A N T I I O N A
 E L A I N E G E I G E R
 C A R E S S S H I A G
 A S H H O R N E T S N E S T
 P I O N B O O N T I T L E
 R I A R E A M O S E T H O S
 A N N O R I A K I E R E S E I T

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ELIMINATE THE NEGATIVE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ J 6
 ♣ K 9
 ♠ A 9 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 7 3 2

WEST

♠ 2
 ♣ J 10 7 6 4 3 2
 ♠ K J 4 3
 ♣ A

EAST

♠ K 10 9 8 5 4 3
 ♣ 8 5
 ♠ 10 5
 ♣ 5 4

SOUTH

♠ A Q 7
 ♣ A Q
 ♠ Q 8
 ♣ K J 10 9 8 6

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 Pass 2 ♠ 2 ♣
 3 ♣ Pass 6 ♣ Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of

Every so often we receive a hand where the play is fascinating, but the bidding stumps us. This hand from the Danish team championships is a prime example.

If North-South were playing standard opening bids, both North's one-diamond opening and subsequent free raise to three clubs make no sense at all. And if they were using a sub-minimum range of 6-10, then South's jump to six clubs was the height of optimism.

Declarer almost made his con-

tract. Obviously, some endplay would be needed to land the slam, so South won the opening heart lead in dummy and ran the jack of spades. When East did not cover and the jack won, declarer repeated the spade finesse. West ruffed and exited with a heart, and declarer eventually had to concede a diamond trick. Down one.

In a way, justice was served, but slightly better timing would have allowed South to sneak home in his ambitious contract. For the strip and endplay to succeed, declarer needed to take away West's exit card in hearts. Suppose South wins the opening lead in hand with the ace of hearts and then crosses to the king. Now the jack of spades is led. If East covers, declarer wins the ace and cashes the queen. If West ruffs, he is endplayed, so he must discard.

Declarer completes the strip (not that it matters) by ruffing the low spade in dummy, then exits with a trump. In with the ace, West has a choice of ways by which to surrender. A diamond away from the king allows declarer to score two diamond tricks, and a heart presents declarer with a ruff-suff.

Is there a moral to this story? Yes. West should have led the ace of trumps, and in the fullness of time the defenders would have collected a diamond trick to punish North-South for their ill-founded venture.

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
 March 21 - April 20
 You will be disinclined to do what you know has to be done. If you try to be "too clever" you will only make matters worse. You are all too liable to hide your head in the sand, to believe what you would be to be. Be amicable.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 20
 You will tend to tire easily — are you sure your diet is not lacking in vitamins? Your lucky numbers are 4 and 32. You should not be quite so haughty, but there is no reason for excessive modesty either.



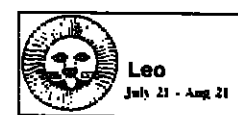
Libra
 Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
 Although you will have some luck you cannot rely on it to get you out of trouble. You will tend to be a little on the nervous side and should do all you can to keep calm. There will be a disappointment but you will be able to take it in your stride. Be sincere.



Capricorn
 Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
 If you try to employ bluff you will not succeed, far better to stick to the truth. Something you had been hoping for will not ensue, but you will be able to find an alternative. You would be quite wrong to trust to luck. Be generous.



Taurus
 April 21 - May 20
 Make sure you allow plenty of time in order to catch a plane or train and do not panic. You are liable to miss a vital detail, so be on the look out for it. Try to ensure your diet contains enough vitamins and minerals. Be frank.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug. 21
 You would be wrong to postpone what you know ought to be done right away. Only if you keep your eyes and ears wide open will you be able to avoid a mistake that might have had consequences. Avoid divulging a personal detail told to you in confidence. Be fair.



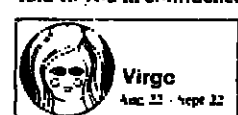
Scorpio
 Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
 Something you had thought would be easy and quick will turn out to be far more complicated than seemed at first sight. You should always make sure that you return a favour. Something that you have been learning will now show its worth. Be respectful.



Aquarius
 Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
 You are rather too liable to hear only what you would like to hear. Avoid eating so much that you put on weight or so little that you lose it. Make sure you do not allow dust or mud to accumulate. Be less indolent.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 20
 There will be lots to do and you should just get on with it, no good worrying about what still remains to be done. You are making good progress with something you have been learning but a lot still remains to be learnt. Try not to make a nuisance of yourself. Be resilient.



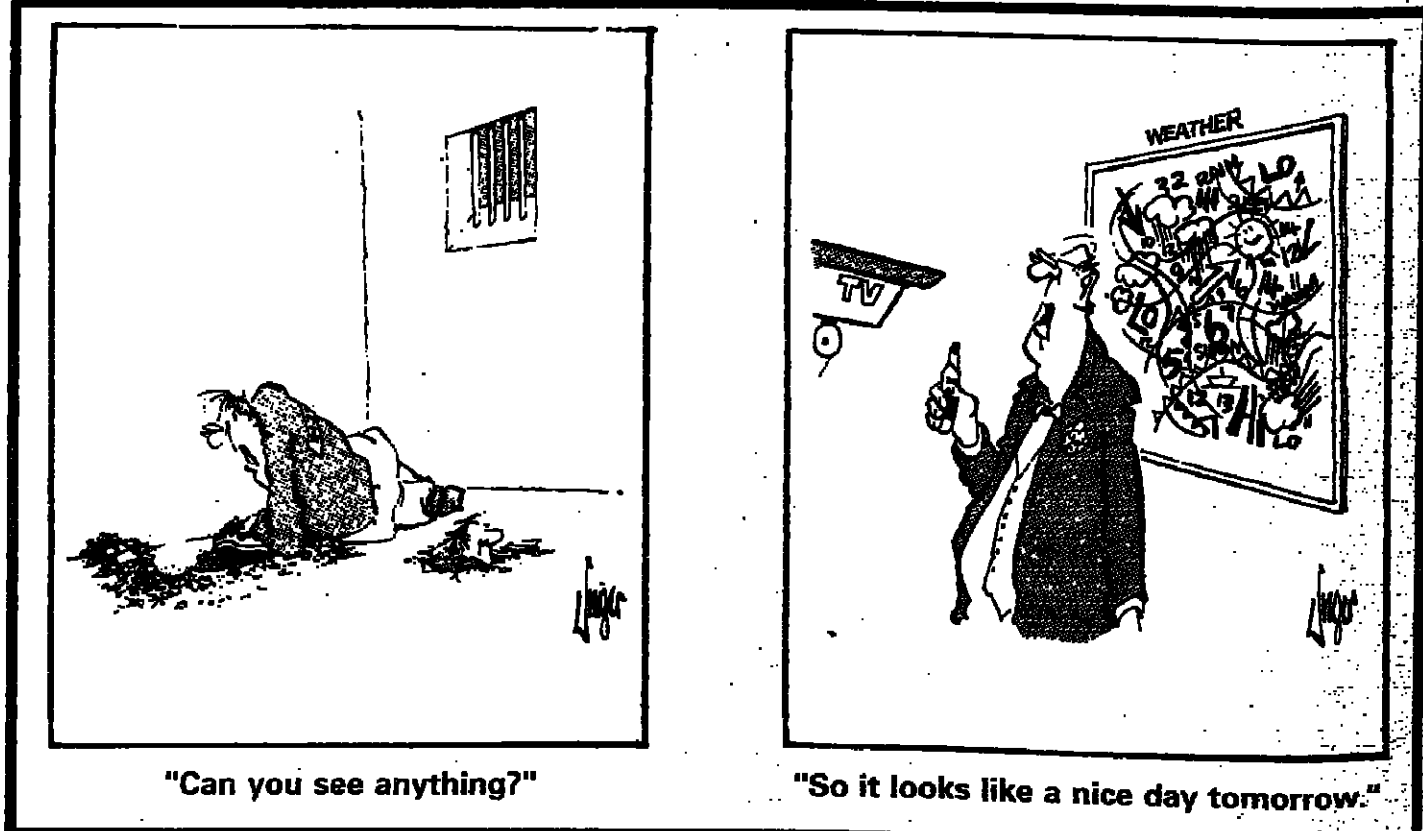
Virgo
 Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
 Something that has been puzzling you will now become clear. You should not try to repair an electrical device unless you really know what you are doing. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford. Be truthful.



Sagittarius
 Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
 Something you had been hoping would happen will not but nor will something you feared would. You are far too liable to take things for granted. You should avoid being too suspicious, but nor should you believe too readily. Be reliable.



Pisces
 Feb. 20 - March 20
 You would well to make a few concessions without abandoning your principles. Also have the courage of your convictions but do not mistake them for habits. Try not to do too many things all at once. Be considerate.



Analyzing Asia's amazing industrial growth

Pacific Destiny, by Robert Elegant (Crown, 533 pp., \$24.95)

Robert Elegant has written a book that goes a long way toward explaining why so much of our clothing, automobiles, cameras, electronic appliances, etc., are made in Asia, and how it was that the Asians learned how to make and sell them to the rest of the world. It also raises a worrisome specter of what lies ahead if western nations do not counteract this headlong Asian economic expansion.

This is not just a recitation of statistics and display of economic balance sheets, but an examination of the Asian character and historical events that have shaped the course of the region's progress. Elegant weaves in the roles of individuals to illustrate the dramatic upheaval that has occurred in the area since World War II.

During the last four decades, Elegant, a polished writer and novelist, has spent most of his time working as a

newsman in various parts of Asia. In this book he analyzes each Asian country's amazing industrial growth -- or in some cases lack of it.

Japan, of course, leads the pack. Scoring high are Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong. Not as high, but still right up there, are Malaysia, China and Thailand. But Australia is languishing in backwater and the Philippines and Indochina are in a mess, says Elegant.

Where all this Asian progress will take the world, Elegant is not sure, except he believes that Japan's "economic animals" must be tamed lest disaster occurs.

And Elegant says he is not sure that Japan can be stopped, but if it is, it must be the Americans who do the deed.

The Once and Future Spy, by Robert Littell (Bantam, 294 pp., \$18.95)
Silas Sibley spies; but he's also an amateur historian, fascinated by a

revolutionary war figure whose profession was the same as his. The parallels between that person's life and Sibley's don't just obsess him -- they'll grab you, too.

There is a nasty plot with an Iranian connection in *The Once and Future Spy*, but the book's special pull is the way Sibley, dividing his time between writing a fictionalized history and surviving a dangerous present, increasingly resembles his hero.

It is Sibley's knowledge of history, not ignorance, that compels him to repeat it. Once you recall the historical ending, the focus of suspense is whether Sibley can avoid a recurrence of that, too.

Robert Littell gave us *The Amateur* and *The Deception of A.J. Lewinter*. Those books were good; this one is better.

Lazarus, by Morris West (St. Martin's 292 pp., \$19.95)
Morris West may not be a prophet

but his writing has a certain prophetic quality. The most obvious example was in *The Shoes of the Fisherman*, the first of his trilogy on the Vatican, in which a cardinal from the Ukraine is named Pope Kiril I. The novel was published shortly before the world got its first Polish Pope in John Paul II.

In the second part of the trilogy, *The Clowns of God*, Kiril's successor, Gregory XVII, claims to have had a private revelation of the second coming, an admission that leads the College of Cardinals to depose him on grounds of mental incompetence.

In *Lazarus*, the final part of the trilogy, the cardinal who engineered Gregory's abdication has become Pope Leo XIV, an unbending, orthodox pontiff not unlike John Paul II.

The story begins with Pope Leo facing bypass surgery. West, always a master storyteller, weaves a plausible plot filled with terrorists and romance against the backdrop of the Byzantine

inner workings of the Vatican.

Like Lazarus walking from the tomb, Leo emerges from surgery a changed man. He has faced death and realized the error of his ways. He decides to change directions but finds that it is not an easy task to go against the formidable wall of orthodoxy he himself created.

West unfortunately paints himself into a corner in his plot and the ending is a mild disappointment. But overall, West uses the medium of the novel to perfection in dealing with issues facing today's Roman Catholics.

Beyond Reason, by Ken Engle (St. Martin's, 353 pp., \$19.95)

In this non-fiction work, a la Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, author Ken Engle tells the story of a shocking double murder in Virginia.

Derek Haysom and his socialite wife Nancy, a descendant of Lady Astor,

were butchered in their home. Neighbors were terrified because there were signs they were slaughtered as part of some demonic ritual.

Police detectives had few clues to begin with. As they gathered more, the story takes on the aura of a good mystery yarn -- with a few differences. Reader aware of the highly publicized case, with a manhunt that spanned two continents, know that the Haysom's brilliant and beautiful daughter plead guilty to conspiracy in her parents' death.

Because it's non-fiction, not all of the loose ends are wrapped up nicely. At the book's end, the daughter's boyfriend Jens Soering has just been returned from Europe to Virginia to face first-degree murder charges.

This is a riveting story, including drugs, sex, incest, intercontinental car games, and detective work -- and the story of an aristocratic family destroyed by murder and madness.

China works out formula to save rain forest

JINGHONG, China (UPI): Deep in a oasis of lush greenery, where monkeys cavort and wild peacock strut, the isolated rain forest of southernmost China is threatened by a familiar adversary.

As with its counterparts around the world, the Xishuangbanna rain forest has suffered from the encroachment and neglect of humans. Its tropical vegetation cover, sprouting with rubber and banana trees, is steadily shrinking.

The denuding of the broad expanse in southern Yunnan Province has been of official concern for decades, but only recently has the government begun to protect some of China's most spectacular scenery.

Legend has it that Xishuangbanna was discovered thousands of years ago by hunters chasing a golden deer. More than half its area is rain forest, the rest valleys and hills that from the air appear sculpted by the terracing of grain cultivation.

Bisecting the region is the upper Mekong River, known in China as the Lancang, which meanders south across the border into the infamous opium-producing region called the Golden Triangle at the junction of the borders of Laos, Burma and Thailand.

Long popular with backpacking foreign tourists, the region's poor roads and backwardness have prevented the voracious commercial exploitation that has destroyed other rain forests. Much of the damage has been done by impoverished peasants simply trying to eke out a living from the land.

But the isolation also gave a false sense of security that led to decades of official neglect.

"We have been trying to protect this area since the 1950s," said Zhang Yunsheng, deputy director of the tropical products research institute in Jinghong, the region's biggest city. "But we have only had the legal means to protect it in the past five years."

Working with botanical researchers from Kunming, the provincial capital, the institute's 1,000 staffers focus primarily on exploiting rubber trees and other economic resources, but have found a concurrent need to study conservation.

On the institute grounds, where graceful gardens of fruit trees and blooming plants flourish, they have created a rain forest in miniature as laboratory for the bigger expanse outside. They also grow their own hybrid of coffee, which is served to visitors.

"We're looking at the different stages of the forest," said Zhang. "We can create different heights of vegetation to study what happens to the plants."

The forest holds some 4,000 named species of plant life and hundreds more unidentified. Deep within its tree cover, tigers, monkeys, peacocks and even a few dozen wild elephant still roam.

But the region also is home to some of China's poorest people, many members of a dozen ethnic minorities with annual incomes of under 100. The most numerous are the Dai, whose colorful dress, language and customs are closer to Thailand than China.

Many still employ ancient slash-burn farming, or simply cut trees as firewood or for sale, officials say.

The legal regulations that took effect in 1985 set aside 600,000 acres (240,000 ha) just over half the forest, as a nature reserve, forbidding unauthorized uses. But the government has also resorted to controlling the human population.

About 15,000 people live in some 100 villages within the reserve, but officials each year evict some 2,000 settlers who move into the area without permission. Some set up dwellings and cut trees to farm, others chop wood to sell.

"Every year we have to go through the forest to clear out people who don't belong there," said Zhang, noting the programme, including forest patrols, costs several hundred thousand dollars.

Still, the forest has shrunk from 50 per cent of the region three decades ago to around 30 per cent now. Some species face extinction, including one tree that soars to 110 feet but has been placed on the United Nations list of endangered species.

"Everyone knows there's a lot of space, so they move in," said Li Junhong, one of the institute's researchers.

Indian cinema

THE weekly Indian film roundup from Bombay by our correspondent Feroze Rangwala did not appear today due to circumstances beyond our control.

Dutch keen to ski, climb

THE HAGUE, (Reuters): The Dutch refuse to let the lack of mountains in their low-lying country keep them down.

They are flocking to climbing walls and artificial slopes -- some of them lying below sea level -- to satisfy their passion for heights and skiing.

"The Dutch are crazy about the mountains because it's so flat here, they look for a different kind of landscape for sport," said Erik Pals of the Dutch Ski Federation.

Although about half the Netherlands lies below sea level, an estimated 1.2 million of the country's 15 million inhabitants are regular skiers and 35,000 people belong to two climbing clubs.

Every Sunday, about a dozen rock climbers gather in front of a public school in the central town of Dordrecht to clamber up a sculpture that doubles as a climbing wall.

Throwing colourful ropes onto the concrete structure, they practise their grip and keep their muscles supple in between vacations to mountains elsewhere in Europe.

The sculpture is one of 15 artificial climbing walls built in the Netherlands in the past 12 years to accommodate the increasing number of Dutch climbers.

Life here is so orderly, so in sports, people look for adventure and climbing offers that, explained Coen Fromm, who organises the climbing sprees in Dordrecht.

"It's growing as sport and the emphasis is more and more on climbing in the Alps. That makes physical strength crucial so that training on walls becomes important," he explained.

Several sports halls in other parts of the country have climbing walls with interchangeable panels which give a variety of crags on which to practise.

Erick van Rossum, 26, said "I started out hiking in the Alps and then wanted more. I turned to climbing partly for the danger in it."

Several winters of erratic snow in Europe have been a boon to the Dutch artificial ski slope industry.

There are some 37 artificial slopes -- the longest is 500 metre (yards) open from autumn to spring.

The 20-metre-high (65-foot) Meerberg slope of plastic bristles near Amsterdam is located on a polder -- land reclaimed from the sea -- and lies no more than 10 metres (33 feet) above sea level.

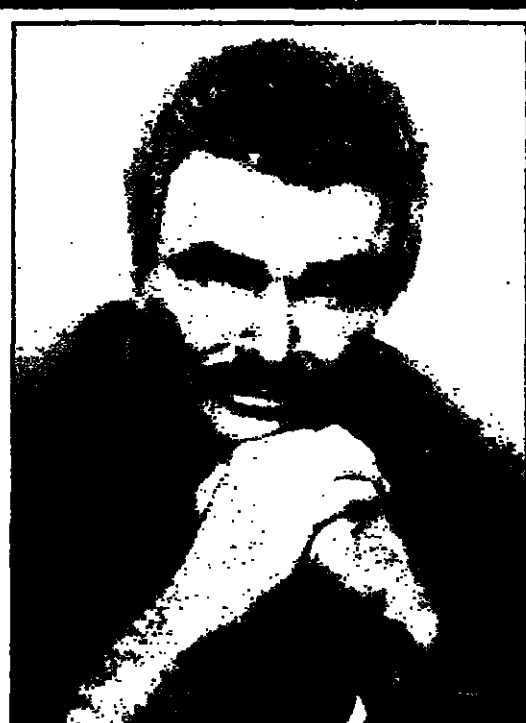
"Most people who come are getting ready for a vacation. This year, many kept putting off going to the mountains in the hope that snow would finally fall and keep coming to the artificial slopes," said Rob Buckers, who runs Meerberg.



Omar Sharif nearly died in the sewers of Paris...when a scene from his latest film *The Rainbow Thief* went disastrously wrong.



Farrah Fawcett was left so exhausted by an underwater fight scene that she had to be revived with the kiss of life.



Burt Reynolds could have needed a glass eye, as well as a toupe, after a prop pistol went off in his face. Prompt medical attention kept his looks intact.



Michael Jackson's magnificent locks went up in smoke while he was filming a TV commercial.

The long line of close shaves that aren't in the script

By Barney Fields

OMARSHARIF's recent escape from a watery grave while rehearsing a scene in his new film is the latest in long line of close shaves that weren't in the script.

Sharif lost his footing and almost drowned on the set at Shepperton Studios where 150,000 gallons of water was being used to recreate the sewers of Paris for a comedy movie, *The Rainbow Thief*.

"I found myself struggling for my life," says the 37-year-old star. "I was gasping for air and my lungs were filling with water. There was no way I could let anyone know I was in real trouble. Well, this is it, I thought. I was prepared to drown but I made one last effort to surface. Then I began waving for help."

The film crew and co-star Peter O'Toole had no idea that Sharif was in danger.

"They told me afterwards that they thought it was one hell of a good piece of acting," says Egyptian-born Sharif who plays a manservant to O'Toole's prince in the movie.

Quite a few stars have almost drowned while on the set.

Catherine Bach says she'll always remember the 1983 movie *White Water Rebels* in which she co-starred with James Brolin and Michael Gwynne: a watery yarn about daring river kayakers who shoot rapids and waterfalls.

"It was very nearly my last!" she says. "I slipped headlong into a torrential river and was almost swept away. There was nothing anyone could have done -- it all happened so quickly. By sheer fluke, I was hurled against a jagged rock with plenty of edges to cling to. And I hung on until I

Filming can be a hazardous business. While the crew admired their 'realistic' performances, Omar Sharif and Farrah Fawcett came close to drowning.

was rescued."

Farrah Fawcett is another who almost drowned while filming. In a scene in the 1979 movie *Sunburn*, in which she starred with Joan Collins and Eleanor Parker, the script called for her to lose her aqualung in an underwater fight before swimming ashore to safety.

But she was so exhausted after the fight that she had no strength left to battle against the strong currents. "I felt myself being dragged down," she says. "I waved and screamed but, as that's what I was supposed to be doing, they just carried on filming."

"I went under again and I'd lost buoyancy. My lungs were bursting. I really thought I'd had it."

Superhumanly, she managed to surface and at last the film crew realised she was in trouble and dived in and dragged her ashore. She was revived with the kiss of life.

Jacqueline Bisset almost met her watery end in the 1977 movie *The Deep*, in which the fifty per cent of the action takes place underwater.

Like Farrah, the script called for her to lose her oxygen mask 80ft down in the Atlantic.

"I never did like that particular scene when I first read it in the script," she says. "And on the day, it turned out to be an awful

place to go underwater swimming. I spent most of my time avoiding nasty, stinging jellyfish, and the coral outcrops were razor sharp."

Co-star Nick Nolte was below her when she had to lose her mask. His air bubbles obscured her view and she panicked.

She began thrashing wildly for the surface.

"I was gulping down water and remember thinking it was a silly way to die," she recalls.

When she finally surfaced, she was barely conscious. A passing film crew boat hauled her on board and rushed her to hospital.

Ian Ogilvy and Lionel Jeffries came close to drowning when they were working on the TV comedy series *Tom, Dick and Harriet*. They were in a car in which Jeffries, playing a learner-driver, had to drive into a lake in Middlesex.

But the car shot too far into the water and began turning over, trapping the two stars inside. It didn't help when a nearby safety motorboat failed to start. With only seconds to spare before the car sank to the bottom, Ogilvy managed to squeeze through one of the windows, dragging Jeffries after him.

TV tough-guy Lewis Collins won't forget in a hurry the time when a scene went desperately wrong in *The Professionals*. It happened during a high speed

Richard Chamberlain found himself on a disintegrating ice-floe and a stuntman's blunder was one in the eye for Burt Reynolds.

boat chase in the disused West India dock in London.

Suddenly he catapulted overboard -- it wasn't in the script.

"Martin Shaw was at the wheel," says Collins. "He never saw me go. We were doing about 35 mph at the time. I got my foot trapped under the boat and was dragged face up in the water."

"It was at least 20 seconds before Martin slowed down and raised the alarm. A film crew from another boat hauled me out."

Paul Michael Glaser was a real rough-and-tumble action man in *Starsky and Hutch*. But his closest dice with death was when he was starring in the film *The Great Houdini*.

One of the stunts involved him being shackled into a water tank. "It was one of Houdini's most dangerous stunts but I insisted on doing it myself and then I panicked," he says.

"I was supposed to thrash around as though I was in my death throes. But the moment the water rushed up my nose I wasn't acting. Believe me, I really did almost drown in that tank."

But, of course, not all deadly near-misses of the stars have happened in water.

Michael Jackson was severely burned when a TV commercial he was making went horribly wrong six years ago. The multi-millionaire superstar was dancing

to his hit single Billie Jean while a fireworks display erupted behind him.

Jackson took one step too far back and his elegantly coiffured hair suddenly burst into flames.

Cameras and fans in the audience at the Los Angeles studios ran to his aid as he frantically tried to smother the flames in his jacket.

He was rushed to hospital suffering second-degree burns on his scalp. Luckily his hair grew again and, today, neatly hides the permanent reminder of his close brush with danger.

Burt Reynolds almost lost the sight of his right eye in a gunfight scene. He was directing and starring in the crime film *Stick* when a stunt man fired a prop pistol at him.

To everyone's horror, Reynolds fell backwards holding his face.

"It was like being hit by a sledgehammer," he recalls. "I couldn't see because of the gunpowder in my eye."

He was rushed by helicopter to the nearest hospital 80 miles away where doctors saved his eye from permanent damage.

Michael Crawford never flinches from running risks in all the parts he plays. In his memorable TV series *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em* he did all his own crazy stunts.

"In one episode, I was a win-

dow cleaner in a hanging cradle 120 feet above the pavement," he says. "Suddenly, the mechanism failed and I slipped and was left dangling helplessly outside the safety bars, holding on for grim death literally by my fingernails."

He had to remain like that while the cradle was slowly hauled back to the top of the building.

Richard Chamberlain once stared death in the face in the icy water of the Arctic.

It happened as he was making the TV movie, *Cook and Peary: The Race To The Pole*, the true story of two men's quest to reach the North Pole in 1909.

Filmed off the desolate coast of Greenland, the icefloe on which Chamberlain and the crew were working suddenly cracked like an explosion and began to break up.

"We were all dead scared. I can tell you!" he says. "We all had visions of being crushed by the ice or hurled into the near-freezing sea."

"Our only chance of escape was by helicopter, but the pilot dared not land in case the floe broke up completely. It was terrifying. We were only one step ahead of death."

When the swirling blizzard subsided, a brave helicopter pilot came as close as he could with a lowered ladder, which swung wildly in the wind.

Four times it had to return before Chamberlain and six crew members were flown to safety.

"And just as you'd expect to see in a movie, when the helicopter pulled the last man off, the icefloe finally gave way completely," Chamberlain recalls.



Don Johnson

Following in the footsteps of his father

By Shaun Seekins

RELENTLESS is based upon an early effort by *Field of Dreams* writer Phil Robinson. It is a 'catch-me-if-you-can' cop drama about a serial killer on the loose in Los Angeles. Judd Nelson stars as Buck, a loner, who never recovers from not being accepted onto the police force. His father was a brutal hard-driving cop himself, and since his early days Buck was trained to follow in his father's footsteps. When Buck is disqualified for psychological reasons, he goes on a murderous rampage, attempting to show how inept the Los Angeles Police Department is without him. Apparently choosing his victims at random from the phone book, he leaves behind some clues and some taunting notes for his pursuers. Bill Malloy (Robert

Loggia), who is seems is past caring and just counting the days until his retirement, is a gruff detective, more interested in speculating on the cost of the victim's condo than in the case. Malloy's partner, Sam Dietz (Leo Rossi), is an eager-beaver cop who has recently transferred from New York to L.A. and who is exasperated by his partner's lack of drive. He is also not too crazy about Los Angeles. Buck keeps trying to make himself more and more obvious until eventually it clicks with Dietz and he sets up a trap despite opposition from an overbearing captain.

Sweetheart's Dance is an attempt by Don Johnson to break away from his Miami Vice image. He stars with Susan Sarandon as a small town American couple who plod along through marriage and three kids until one day he decides that he doesn't want to be married any longer. This isn't a

new thing to do and the rest of the film shows the efforts of friends and neighbours to show him the error of his ways. He has a minor flirtation and a major argument with all and sundry until he gets fed up with living in a caravan and his mid-life crisis passes with everyone starting out all over -- again.

Kokoda Crescent stars Warren Mitchell down-under, in Australia that is, he plays a proud grandfather whose cosy life is disrupted when his favourite grandson is killed. He is determined to find out the reason for his death and enlisting the help of two friends, sets off to follow the drug pushers in a run-down area of town. Starts slowly but Mitchell plays a good believable role as the aggrieved grandfather.

It Takes Two Stars George Newbern and Leslie Hope as a young couple about to get married, unlike Don Johnson in *Sweet-*

hearts Dance, Newbern gets cold feet before the marriage and sets off to have a final fling in Dallas before the big day. But his fling lands him in big trouble and we have to wait until the final frames to know whether his bride be left waiting at the altar.

Miracles stars Tom Conti and Terri Garr as a recently divorced couple who just can't stop bumping into each other... in cars, planes, boats and even revolutions.

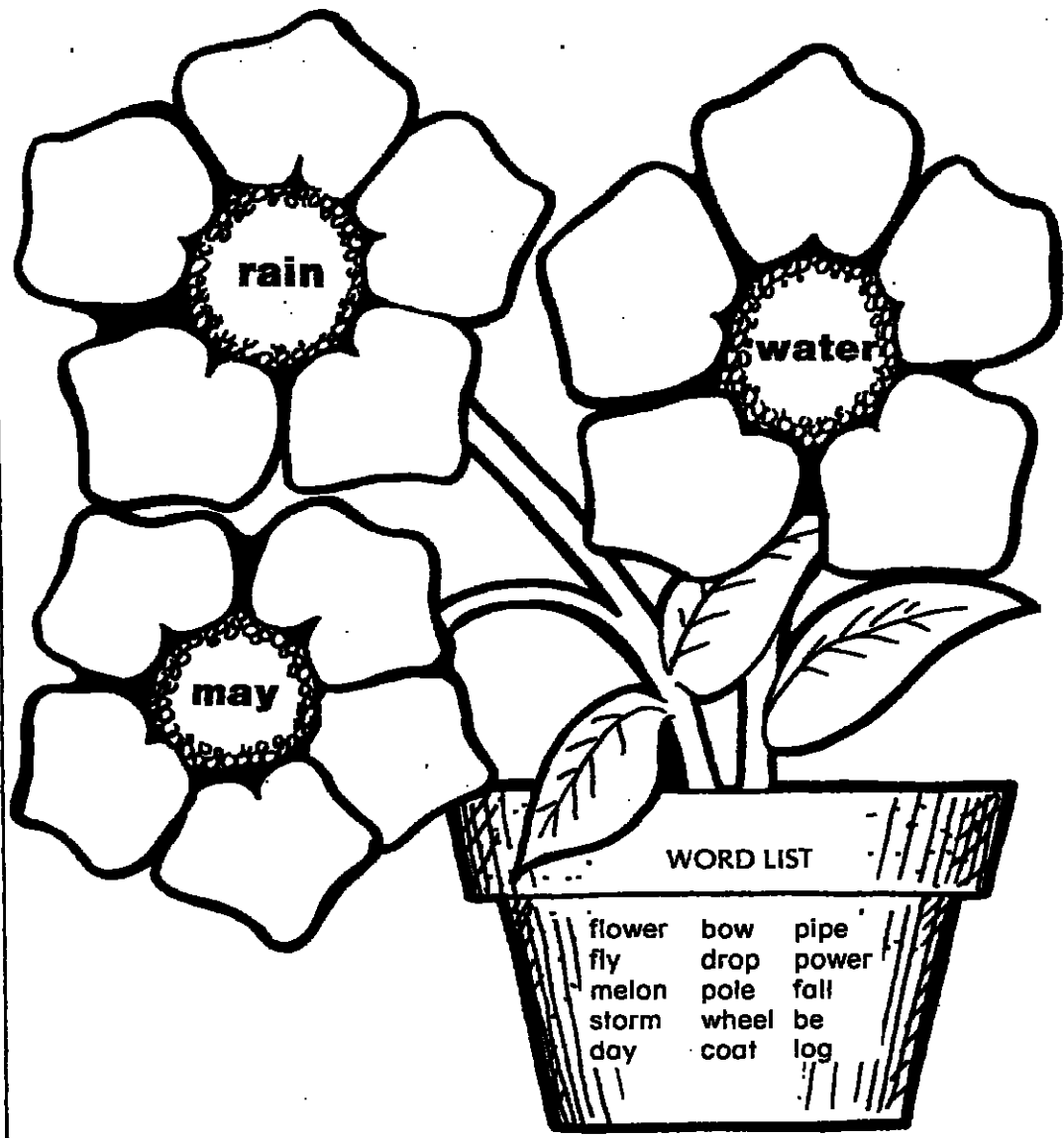
Dark Angel stars Dolph Lundgren as an intergalactic drug dealer possessing both Herculean strength and weapons of unparalleled power who comes face to face with an undercover cop.

Above films by courtesy of the Video Club, Salmiya 5724372, Fintas Towers, Salmiya Complex, Kuwait City, Safeway Complex Farwaniyah.

JUNIOR TIMES

Compound Flowers

Directions: Choose words from the word pot to fill in the blanks in the flower petals. Put one word in each blank to form a compound word that begins with the word in the center of the flower.



Happy birthday



Tasneem Safdar A. Poonawalla, turns 2 on May 3.



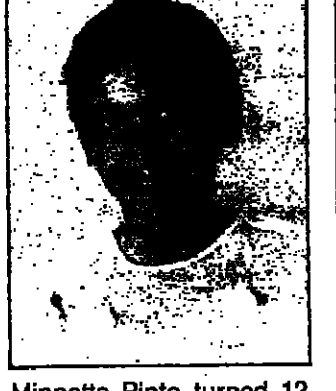
Diane Almeida turned 5 on April 29.



Dinu Thomas turned 6 on April 23.



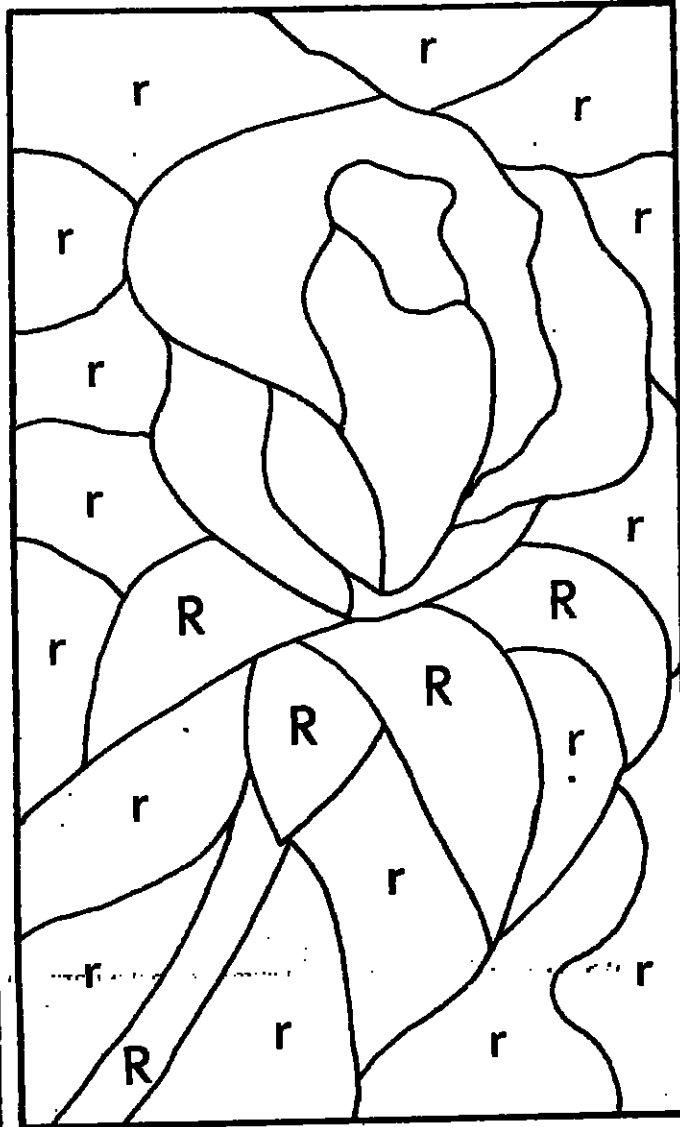
K.A.S. Vasu turns 6 today, May 3.



Minnette Pinto turned 12 on May 1.



Color the r spaces one color. Color the spaces with the capital R's another color. What do you see that begins with r?

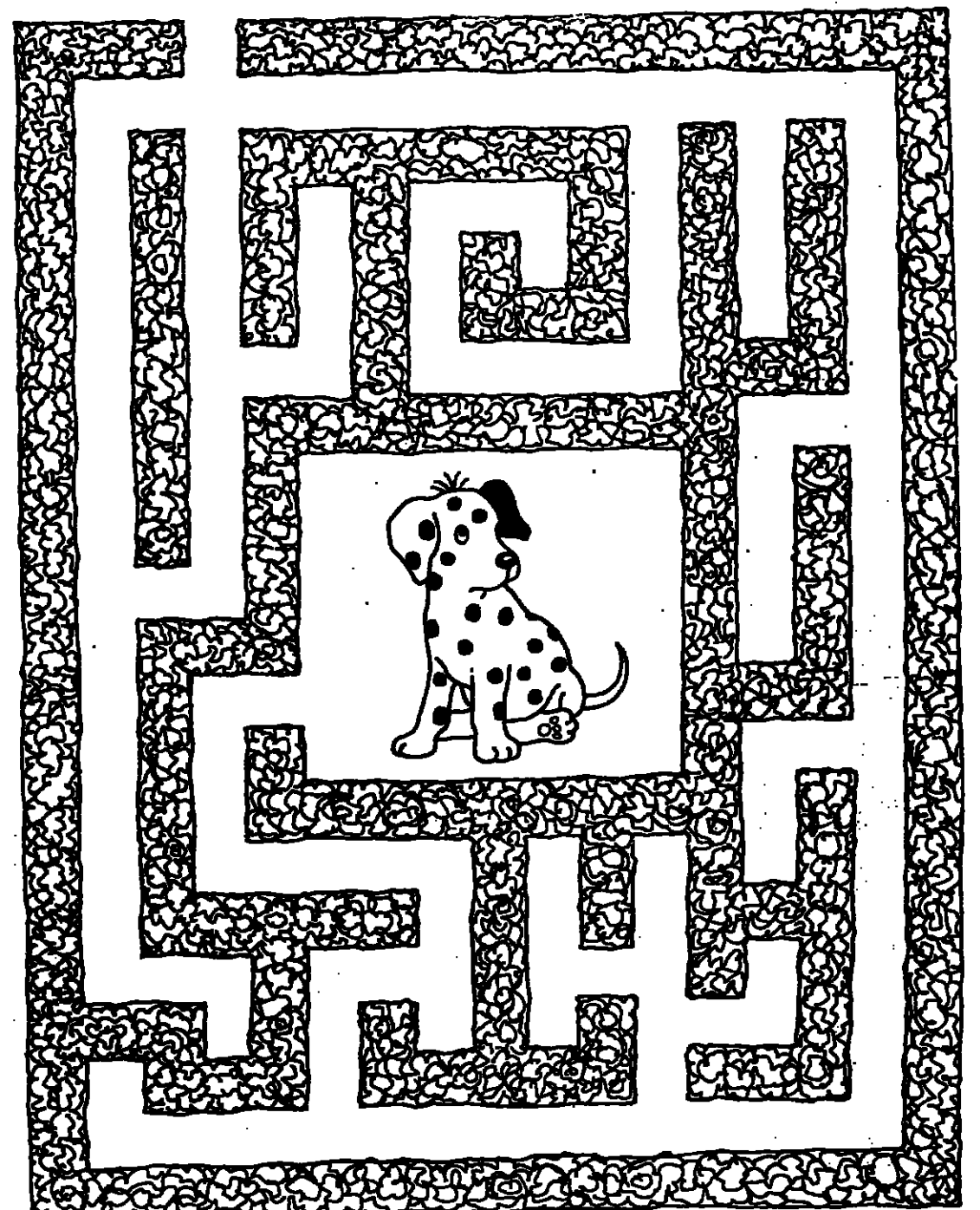


Write the missing letter.

ose



Help Found find Lost



Did you know?

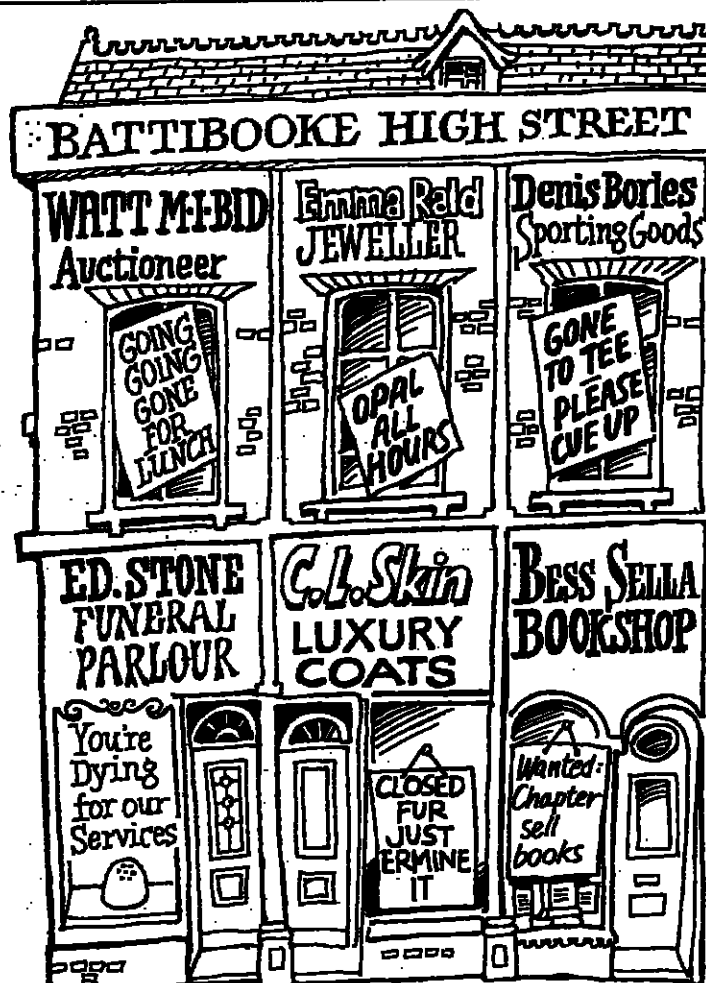
Iran was the first country to become independent in 529 BC.

The first silk was made in China 3,000 years ago.

In 1967 Albania became the first atheist state in the world when every church, mosque and other religious building was closed.

According to a special Danish law, the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen is permitted to stage a foreign play.

When George III drove through the streets of London to open parliament for the first time, the mud was so deep that sticks and branches had to be placed underneath the wheels of his state carriage to keep it going.

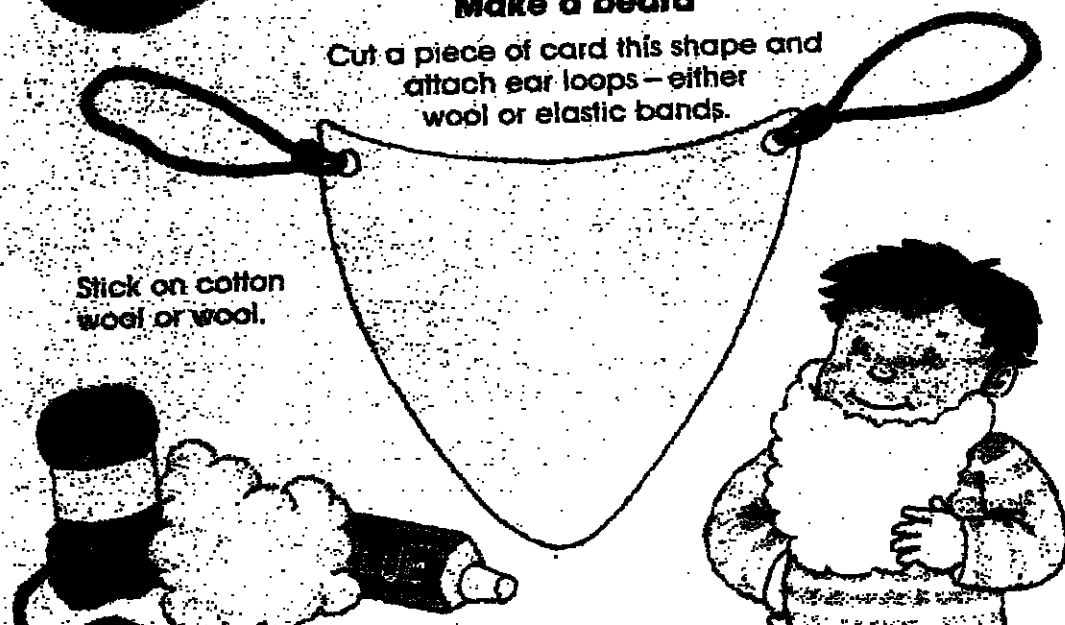


Some funny face ideas

Make a beard

Cut a piece of card this shape and attach ear loops - either wool or elastic bands.

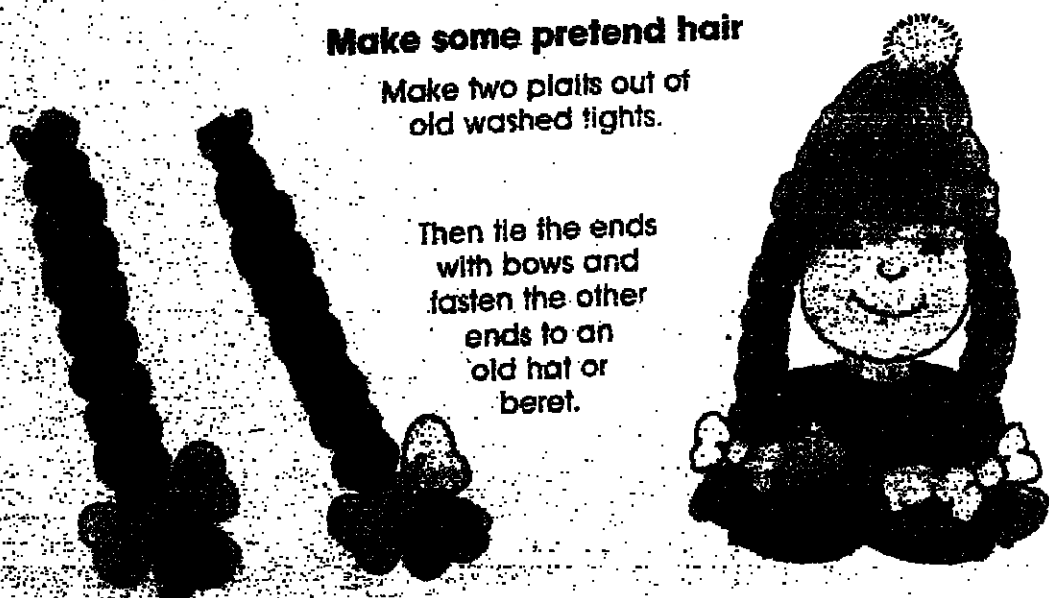
Stick on cotton wool or wool.



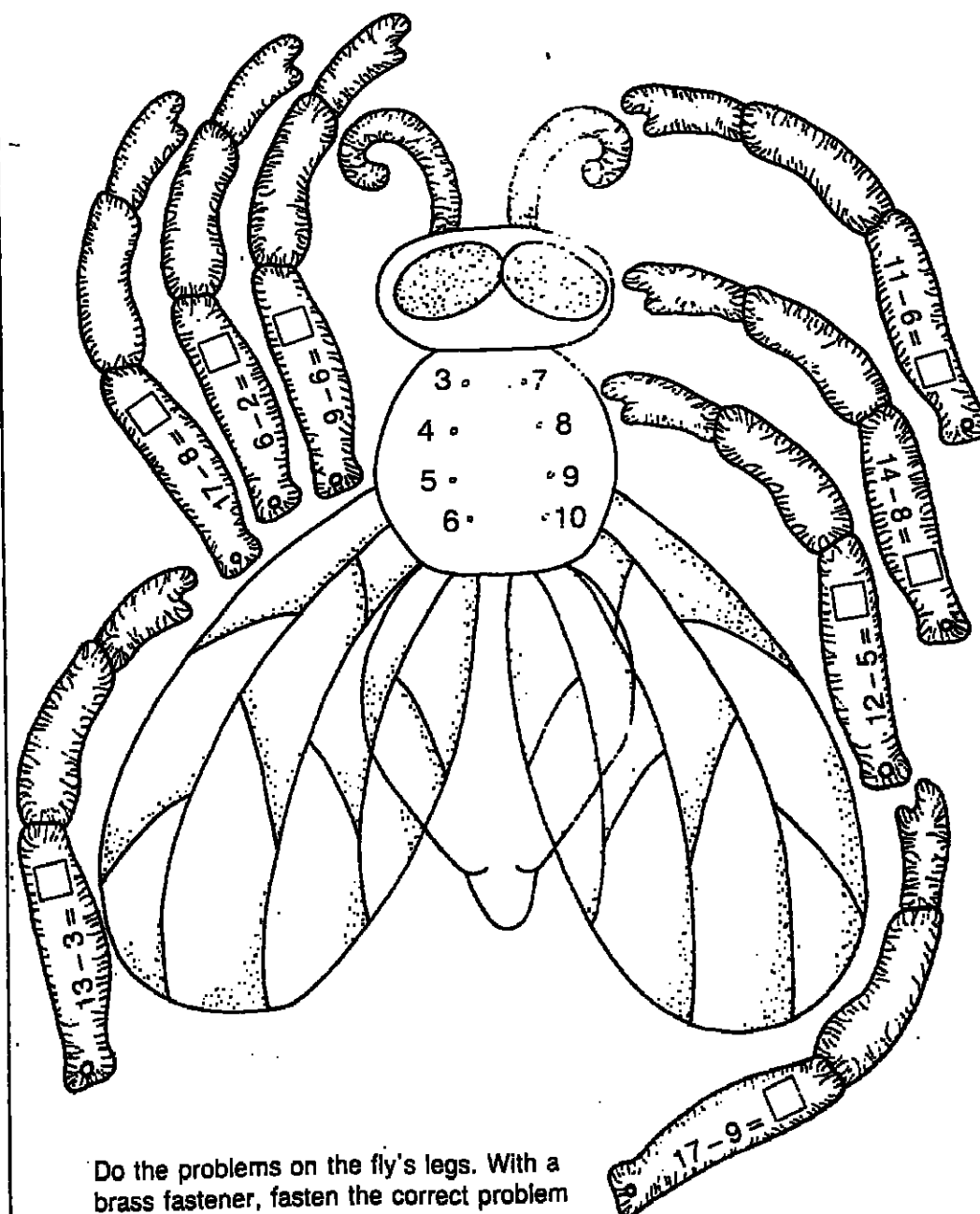
Make some pretend hair

Make two plaits out of old washed tights.

Then tie the ends with bows and fasten the other ends to an old hat or beret.



Fly



Do the problems on the fly's legs. With a brass fastener, fasten the correct problem on each of the fly's legs to its correct answer on the fly's body.

Amazing facts

After Sir Walter Raleigh was executed in 1618, his widow had his head embalmed and carried it in a red leather bag wherever she went until her own death twenty-nine years later.

Only the mother can be charged with infanticide. Any other parties may be charged with murder.

Join the dots Princess



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Robertson surprise winner of European Open

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, May 2. (Reuters) Chris Robertson pulled off an unexpected triumph in the European Open Squash Championship when he beat fellow Australian Chris Dittmar 15-10 10-15 15-6 in the final yesterday.

Robertson had moved above Dittmar to number three in the world rankings issued yesterday, but Dittmar was a strong favourite to win here after a semifinal victory over Jahangir Khan, who last week won the British

Open for a record ninth time.

However, the effort needed to defeat Jahangir left Dittmar short of ammunition with which to counter the remarkable speed and unmatchable retrieving that are the hallmarks of Robertson's game.

Dittmar stayed in contention for the first two games but Robertson dictated the match after that and completed his victory in 76 minutes.

Robertson had a huge slice of luck earlier in

the tournament when world champion Jahangir Khan was removed from his path, the Pakistani suffering an upset defeat by Stuart Hailstone, a South Africa-born Scot ranked just 27 in the world.

"But this will be one of many tournaments where the Khans will not win," Robertson predicted.

Dittmar offered no excuses for his defeat, "I never felt in control and was well beaten," he said.

It was Robertson's first major title since he won the Malaysian Open in 1988. But he predicted there could be more to come.

"When you're outside the top four seeded positions you can't expect to win top events because it's physically too hard," he said.

"But once you're in the top four, you have a chance. I got into that position for the first time after the British Open and I have proved the point just one week later here in Karlsruhe."

Costa Rica announce Cup squad

SAN JOSE, May 2. (Reuters) Costa Rica yesterday named their 22-strong squad for the World Cup soccer finals, choosing a blend they hope will be good enough to reach the second round.

"I think it's a good blend of youth and experience and that we will make a good showing," Fabio Garnier, vice-president of the national soccer federation, told Reuters.

"The most we can hope for is to reach the second round."

Costa Rica face a tough task against Brazil, Sweden and Scotland in Group C in the first round.

But Bora Milutinovic, Costa Rica's Yugoslav-born coach, said he was very confident about his team's chances.

"We have a great advantage in this championship because we have nothing to lose, and everything to win," Milutinovic said.

"We might have a very agreeable surprise in store for our fans."

Juan Arnaldo Cayasso, Oscar Ramirez and Hernan Medford are expected to provide the goals, while veteran Roger Flores will marshal the defence.

There is no place for veteran striker Evaristo Coronado, dropped by Milutinovic when he took over the squad in March.

The team will play their first game under Milutinovic, who guided Medford at the 1986 World Cup finals, at a four-team tournament in Chicago this weekend.

Colombia, Poland and a Mexican club team provide the opposition.

After that, the squad travel to Europe to complete their preparation for the finals, which will be held in Italy in June and July.

Liverpool beat Derby in last League match

LONDON, May 2. (Reuters) Kenny Dalglish spent 20 minutes in front of his adoring Anfield fans doing what he likes best — playing for Liverpool — before his title-winning team's English League championship trophy yesterday.

Liverpool, who clinched the crown on Saturday, celebrated by beating Derby 1-0 after manager Dalglish came on as a substitute to roars of approval from the near-capacity crowd of more than 38,000.

Dalglish was on hand to see Gary Gillespie score the only goal in the 81st minute. England keeper Peter Shilton, having earlier shown dazzling form, could only parry Israeli striker Ronnie Rosen's close-range drive to Gillespie, who turned it into an empty net.

At the final whistle, captain Alan Hansen, one of several players ruled out by injury, received the League trophy and the traditional League championship trophy from Doug Ellis, a member of the League management committee, and ironically, chairman of runners-up Aston Villa.

Results		
English Division One		
Liverpool	1	Derby 0
Blackburn	0	Sheff Wed U 0
Hull	4	Ipswich 3
Oldham	4	Oxford 1
Port Vale	1	Sunderland 2

English Division Three		
Bolton	2	Huddersfield 2
Cardiff	2	Reading 2
Walsall	1	Rotherham 1

Division Four		
Aldershot	0	Hereford 2
Cambridge	2	Gillingham 1
Chesham	1	Scunthorpe 1
Wester	2	Burnley 1

Nicklaus honoured

LONDON, May 2. (Reuters) The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of Saint Andrews has made US golfer Jack Nicklaus an honorary member, the club announced today.

Nicklaus, 50, will join a group of seven other honorary members at the prestigious Scottish club, including Prince Philip, husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, and Arnold Palmer.

St Andrews said in a statement honorary membership is only ever offered to "Princes of the blood royal and distinguished persons who in the opinion of the committee have made a significant contribution to the game of golf."

Cavaliers rout 76ers

Rockets stop Lakers



Sleepy Floyd (left) scored 23 points for Rockets

HOUSTON, May 2. (AP) Sleepy Floyd scored 23 points and set a club playoff record with 18 assists as Houston Rockets broke the Los Angeles Lakers' 20-game first-round National Basketball Association playoff winning streak.

Houston trails the Lakers 2-1 in the best-of-5 series. The Lakers had not lost a game in the opening round since Houston beat them in 1981.

Floyd's basket with 22 seconds to go broke a string of eight straight points by the Lakers that had cut Houston's lead to 111-108 with 46 seconds to play.

Otis Thorpe led the Rockets with 27 points. Thorpe took up the scoring and rebounding slack for Akeem Olajuwon, who picked up his fourth foul 26 seconds into the third quarter. Vernon Maxwell scored 26 points for Houston.

James Worthy led the Lakers with 26 points. Orlando Woolridge scored 18 and Magic Johnson added 17. Johnson was scoreless in the fourth quarter.

Cavaliers 122, 76ers 95

Craig Ehlo scored 10 of his 16 third-quarter points during a 22-4 run that broke the game open as Cleveland stayed alive. Philadelphia won the first two games at home by a combined total of 11 points. The margin of victory was Cleveland's largest ever in a playoff game.

The Cavaliers let halftime leads go away in the first two games, but refused to fold in the third quarter this time. After the sixers trimmed a 13-point halftime deficit to nine early in the period, Charles Barkley fouled Brad Daugherty and was whistled for a technical when he argued the call.

That fired up the Cavaliers, who scored 22 of the next 26 points to turn the game into a laughter. The run put them ahead 83-56, and they widened the gap to as many as 35 in the fourth quarter.

Barkley left the game with 4-42 to go in the third period with 17 points after averaging 35 in the first two games.

Ehlo led Cleveland with 25 points and had 10 rebounds and nine assists. Bucks 119, Bulls 112

Alvin Robertson scored 38 points and Fred Roberts, Brad Lohaus and Jack Sikma hit key baskets in the stretch as Milwaukee avoided a sweep.

The Bulls, getting 48 points from Michael Jordan, lead the series 2-1. Chicago, which had beaten Milwaukee in 19 of the previous 21 meetings, had an eight-point lead with 6:43 to go after Jordan sparked a 16-3 run to start the fourth quarter.

But Robertson's career playoff high, Roberts' 23 points and a big 3-pointer by Sikma with 25 seconds left were too much for Chicago to handle.

Scottie Pippen added 21 points for the Bulls.

Results

Milwaukee Bucks 119 Chicago Bulls 112

(Bulls lead best-of-five series 2-1)

Cleveland Cavaliers 122 Philadelphia 76ers 95

(76ers lead best-of-five series 2-1)

Detroit Pistons 108 Indiana Pacers 96

(Pistons win best-of-five series 3-0)

Houston Rockets 114 Los Angeles Lakers 108

(Lakers lead best-of-five series 2-1)

Portland Trailblazers 106 Dallas Mavericks 92

(Blazers win best-of-five series 3-0)

San Antonio Spurs 131 Denver Nuggets 120

(Spurs win best-of-five series 3-0)

Australia, Netherlands win

SYDNEY, May 2. (Reuters) Forward Jackie Pereira scored a hat-trick to pilot Olympic gold medalists Australia to a 3-0 win over China on the opening day of the women's World Cup hockey tournament today.

The Netherlands, seeded third behind the home side, began their title defence in unimpressive fashion, beating last-minute entry the United States 3-0 thanks to two goals from short corners and one from a penalty stroke.

South Korea, silver medalists in Seoul and in Pool B along with the Dutch, thrashed Spain 7-0 after scoring four goals in 13 minutes in the first half against a panicky Spanish defence.

The Australians, who had never seen the Chinese play before Wednesday, started slowly before Pereira weaved

through the defence to score at the near post in the 24th minute. Australia never hit top gear but Pereira was in tremendous form, netting another field goal immediately after halftime and again in the 40th minute.

The Dutch, the long-time champions who surprisingly only won bronze in Seoul, failed to break the deadlock until five minutes before halftime when vice-captain Lissanne Leijune scored from a short corner, a feat she repeated 20 minutes later.

A foul by US goalkeeper Donna Lee, who otherwise had a fine game, allowed Mikaelina Wouters to score from the penalty spot in the 65th minute. The US took the place of seventh seeds the Soviet Union who pulled out because of lack of funds.

Dutch coach Roeland Oltmans was not disappointed by the performance. "The first game in the World Cup is always hard," he said.

South Korea took 14 minutes to score but once won Sim Jin rammed home a field goal, the floodgates opened with last year's Champions Trophy winners playing fluent, skilful hockey.

Gye Sook Lim and Hye Sook Yang both scored twice as the Koreans notched another six goals in the next 35 minutes before easing off in the final stages.

In the final Pool B game midfielder Deb Covey grabbed the only goal of the game three minutes after halftime to earn Canada a hard-fought 1-0 win over New Zealand.

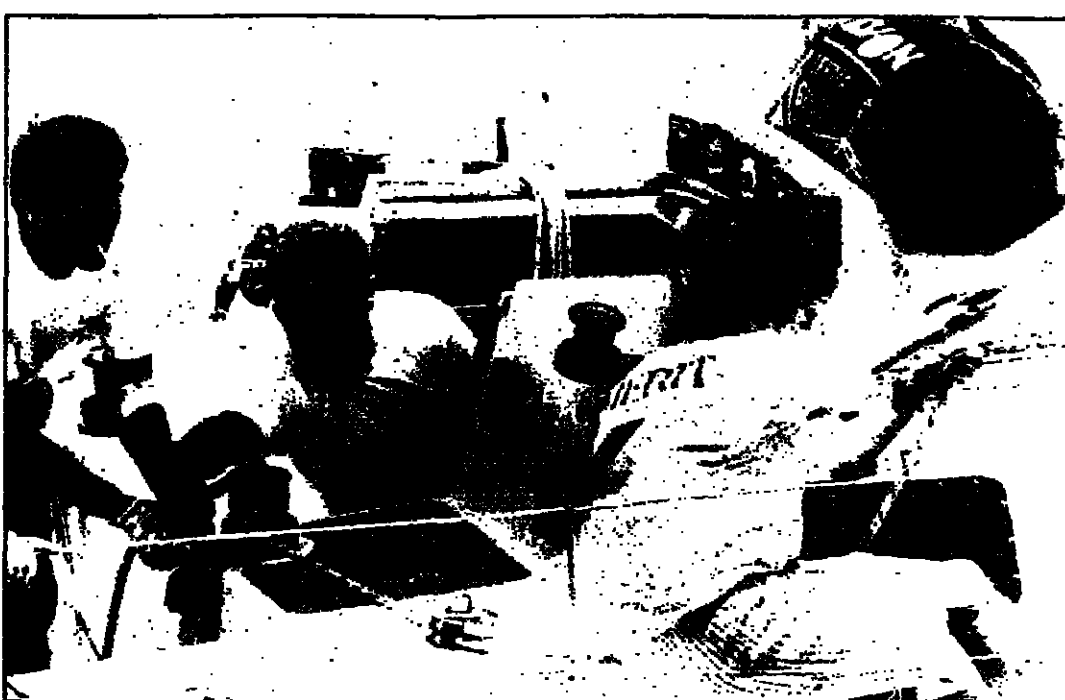
Graf routs opponent

BONN, May 2. (UPI) West German tennis idol Steffi Graf powered her way through to the round of 32 of the \$350,000 Hamburg Grand Prix tennis tournament yesterday, defeating Laura Lapi of Italy in 47 minutes, 6-1, 6-2.

A crowd of over 10,000 cheered at the Hamburg Rothenbaum tennis stadium as top seed Graf made her comeback on a West German court after being out for eight weeks with a broken thumb.

"This was the ideal start for the tournament," Graf commented after the match against Lapi, who never had a chance against the women's tennis world No. 1.

Graf praised the weather and the mood of the crowd which had turned up in record numbers. "I guess the people enjoyed it," Graf said of her win.



Above and below: some of Kuwait's sailors in action

Danat takes line honours

THE Kuwait Off-shore Sailing Association (KOSA) staged the major event of its racing calendar recently, a long off-shore race from Kuwait to Bahrain. The UASC yacht Danat held off its Class 1 rivals, Gull Wing, to cross the finish line near the Sira Beacon in just under two days and claim line honours.

Eight yachts entered the event, which was last held in 1986. The fleet went out in front of the Khiran resort to start the race in very light conditions — 5 knots north westerly breezes.

Red Viking won a clean start which was somewhat confused after magic flute had inadvertently snagged the IDM mark. The first leg was a short 500m heat to the windward mark. Red Viking shot away from the fleet to round about 100m in front of the next boat which eventually turned out to be Gull Wing; she forced Danat out at the mark. Gambit got into trouble at the mark and was forced to follow behind Shammal, Good Kompany and Sentinel (the Bahrain entry).

The second leg was initially a fetch to the north beacon mark, situated 60 miles offshore in an easterly direction. Red Viking opened up an early lead of about 500m but Gull Wing soon began to pay her back. After about 30 minutes most boats decided to hoist spinnakers as the wind was about 70 off-bow.

The wind began to strengthen and boat speeds increased. Gull Wing moved past Red Viking after one hour. Gambit had moved up through the field to almost overtake Red Viking. Donar overcame a slow start and got into her stride to draw level with Gull Wing. Shammal joined Red Viking to begin what would later prove to be a neck and neck struggle for ascendancy.

At the six o'clock radio check, the fleet was distributed over about a five mile range. Gull Wing and Danat were in the most easterly positions with the latter boat being well south. Gambit was two miles behind Danat; Red Viking and Shammal were on Gull Wing's line but a few miles in arrears. Sentinel, Good Kompany and Majic Flute trailed further behind.

As dusk set in, the breeze fell away to almost nothing, returning for short bursts here and there.



Eventually the breeze filled in and Gull Wing rounded the north beacon mark 53 minutes in front of Danat. Red Viking and Shammal rounded next about 1 1/2 hours further behind. Gambit followed 15 minutes later. Sentinel led Majic Flute and Good Kompany around the mark, a further 50 minutes behind.

The next leg was an 18 mile fetch to the south beacon mark. As dawn approached, it was Gull Wing that was setting the pace as the boat to beat. After rounding south beacon, the fleet set sail for the 130 mile leg to Bahrain itself. With a good 12-15 knot, north westerly set in all boats hoisted their biggest downward spinnakers for the run to Bahrain.

Danat developed power failure during the night and was forced to continue without the aid of any navigation equipment. Gambit suffered the same fate and elected to retire for safety reasons.

After 24 hours the pattern of the race was clearly developed: Gull Wing and Danat, the two 40 foot Class 1 boats were fighting for line honours with the former boat 3 to 4 hours ahead; Red Viking and Shammal were engaged in a head to head battle with Shammal leading by about 5 miles; Sentinel, Majic Flute and Good Kompany were grouped together in a fight for supremacy.

At midnight on the second night, the skipper of Danat was awoken to be told that their boat had

moved in front of Gull Wing; it seemed that sailing the direct rhumb line dead downwind had paid dividends. The crew on Danat grunted their teeth determined to hold their lead which they did, crossing the finish line just after 7am on April 26, 25 minutes ahead of Gull Wing. The elapsed time of just over 44 hours was one of the best times for the Kuwait-Bahrain race.

Further back in the field, Red Viking which had trailed Shammal all the way from the north beacon mark, finally won the latter boat down and by gybing for the finish at the right time, moved ahead to cross the line 15 minutes in front in a thrilling finish.

Sentinel, Good Kompany and Majic Flute continued their battle with Sentinel leading the way. Majic Flute had elected to take a line closer to shore and appeared to lose considerable ground. Good Kompany had sailed a very good race to be well positioned for hand-dump honours. So it was Sentinel, Good Kompany and Majic Flute that finished in this order to complete the 1990 Kuwait-Bahrain race.

Results of Kuwait-Bahrain race (not corrected for handicap)

1. Danat
2. Gull Wing
3. Red Viking
4. Shammal
5. Sentinel
6. Good Kompany
7. Majic Flute

Holiday Inn squash team triumph in Abu Dhabi

THE Marina Club in Abu Dhabi recently hosted a team squash tournament (sponsored by Spinneys) over the Eid holiday. Three local teams entered together with the Holiday Inn — Kuwait. Each team had 7 players, and each round was decided by knockout. Some of the best players in Abu Dhabi were included in the local teams which provided extremely tough competition for the Kuwait team. But after winning their first match 6-1, and the final 4-3, the Holiday Inn team came back to Kuwait victorious.

The event was organised by Marina Club manager Patrick Diegan and his wife Michelle, who both left Kuwait early last year to start a new challenge. The squash teams were co-ordinated by Abu Dhabi S.R.A. chairman Rudi Sheriffe. The Holiday Inn team was organised by Bob Green (sponsored by the Sultan Center) and Apollo manageress Julie Dent.

The Holiday Inn team had their final training session last Wednesday afternoon with club professional El Hakim — one of the top players in Kuwait. Later that evening, the team were treated to a full buffet at the hotel's restaurant. They flew to Abu Dhabi that evening and arrived at the Holiday Inn, Abu Dhabi at 4 am last Thursday. Their first match was at 3 pm the same day and the match results were as follows. (Marina Club names first): A. Khan (capt.) lost to James Brown 0-3; H. Soubra lost to Bob Green (capt) 0-3; M. Khawasa lost to Ahmad Safa 0-3; T. Najia beat Graham Dunsby 3-2; H. Abdel Nour lost to Pat Diegan 2-3; S. Alamir lost to Jane Drake 1-3; J. Hassan lost to Tonfu Lawand 1-3.

In the other match, the Marina Club beat the Gulf Club by 5 matches to 2.

The final was played the following day at 1 pm, leaving the Holiday Inn team even less time to



Bob Green and Ally Tombari warming up for the final.

recover from the previous night's celebrations. Final results (Marina Club names first): R. Sheriffe (capt) beat James Brown 3-1; A. Tombari beat Bob Green (capt) 3-0; M. Madani lost to Ahmad Safa 2-3; C. Boyce lost to Graham Dunsby 2-3; A. Nagi beat Pat Diegan 3-1; S. Sheri lost to Jane Drake 0-3; M. Diegan lost to Tonfu Lawand 0-3.

The competition attracted many top players as can be seen by some of their backgrounds below: Rudi Sheriffe: Top Iraqi player and represents his country at international level. Currently Abu Dhabi Amateur Champion.

Ally Tombari: Top player in Abu Dhabi who often beats Sheriffe and other professionals.

Rob Jennings: Abu Dhabi No. 1 professional and Gulf Club recreation manager, and squash coach.

James Brown: Visits Kuwait every month on business and plays most of his squash at the

Holiday Inns against El Hakim and Bob Green. James represents Cyprus at international level.

Bob Green: No. 1 player at Holiday Inn since his arrival in Kuwait 3 years ago.

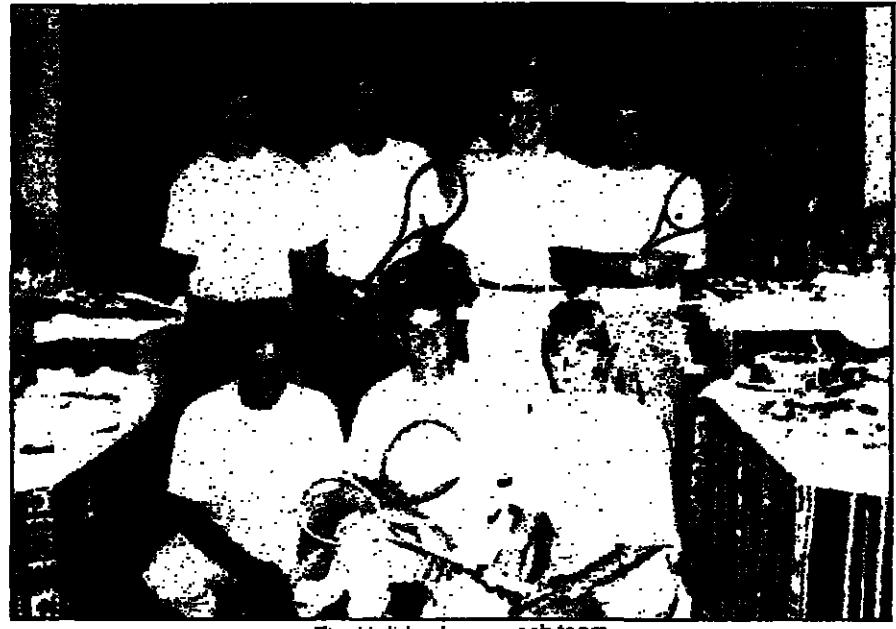
Jane Drake: No. 1 female player in Kuwait since her arrival 8 months ago. Jane upsets many of her male opponents with her aggression and determination to win.

When asked to comment on the team's success, club captain Bob Green replied: "Our preparations paid off and must have surprised our opponents who were expecting us to be tired after our late flight. All the team played well especially the less experienced players, who started off rather nervously. Tonfu Lawand was playing in his first ever match yet showed no mercy against both his opponents. Jane Drake had a tough battle against the No. 2 lady in Abu Dhabi — yet pulled it off. We were lucky to have Pat Diegan

playing for us as he is now resident in Abu Dhabi, but he still feels part of our team having only left last year. Graham Dunsby had the toughest matches of all, with both matches going to 5 games — and he won the most important match in the final.

"Ahmad Safa battled through the final, and even overcame a cut left eye from his opponent's racket, to win 3-2. By the time James Brown and I came on court we had already won the event and suddenly felt the tiredness from the late night party and disco the previous night. I put up little resistance in my final match and James did a little better. We both felt we would have had closer matches when playing at 100 per cent."

"This is the best tour the Holiday Inn team has made and it was successful in every respect. I would now like to organise another tour — maybe to Cyprus?"



The Holiday Inn squash team.

Noah and Chang out in opener

BONN, May 2. (UPI) Defeats for top players Yannick Noah of France and Michael Chang of the US in the \$250,000 Bavarian Open in Munich, West Germany, highlighted first round play yesterday.

Noah lost 6-2, 6-4 against West German Jens Woehrmann, and third-seed Chang sank 7-6, 3-7, 6-7 against Czechoslovakian Peter Korda in first round matches.

Seventh-seed Guillermo Perez-Roldan, who won the Bavarian Open in 1987 and 1988, also lost in his first round match against Thomas Muster of Austria in two sets, 4-6, 4-6.

As Noah, Chang and Perez-Roldan left the court to pack their bags, top-seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden sailed through to the next round in his match against Christian Korda of Czechoslovakia, thrashing him 6-1, 6-0 in 44 minutes.

Woehrmann, 23 and ranked 86th among the world's tennis players, needed six match points to defeat Noah, who is rated 63 places ahead of him, at 23.

But Woehrmann effectively changed his style from defence to aggressive net-attacks.

"This win gives me self-confidence," said Woehrmann after the match.

He was to play fifth-seed fellow countryman Carl-Uwe Steeb in a second-round match today.

Noah, 29, conceded he had been concentrating in the clash with Woehrmann. "I'm at point zero," he said after the clash. "I have prepared myself thoroughly for Munich, but right now, I simply can't play what I want to play."

Noah had arrived in Munich only one night before his match.

Third-seed Chang shared Noah's fate of being defeated in the first round. Playing against Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia, Chang went to three sets, only to be defeated in the last-set tie-break.



Club captain Bob Green with Julie Dent.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Barclays Cup Bridge Tournament (12m week) played on Sunday:

1. Agri, Triab & Sherin Baswani
2. Dina Matarini & Adel Bawumra
3. Nani Avel & Tarendera Shah
4. W. J.
5. Dhruba Mukherjee & Shanker Reddy
6. Izzedin & Ahmed Al-Hadi
7. Sheehi Jadaa & Anel Sabab

Results of the Mersin Ladies Bridge Club game:

1. Nani Avel & Lolita Muthumwa
2. Gula Chackkura & Elaine Keral
3. Margaret Maynard & Jane Jackson

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge game played on Sunday:

1. Rima Jayo & Ghofran Maki
2. Tania Matarini & Sunandan Ojha
3. Gula Chackkura & Elaine Keral

Results of the Sheraton Bridge Club game played on Tuesday:

1. Taba & Izzedin
2. Nani Avel & Lolita Muthumwa
3. Muthumwa & Vardick
4. Best mixed pair: Bianca Mousal & Ahmed Tawil

E.W.
1. Carsten & Galar
2. Shah & Muthumwa
3. Bures & Tumar

A marathon bridge game will be held tomorrow at the Sheraton Hotel at 3:00 pm.

O'Donnell hits 50 in 18 deliveries

Aussies crush Lankans

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, May 2. (Reuters) All-rounder Simon O'Donnell lashed the fastest half-century in one-day cricket internationals as Australia crushed Sri Lanka by 114 runs to reach the Australasia Cup final today.

O'Donnell reached his 50 in 18 deliveries with the help of four sixes and two fours and finished with 74 off 29 balls as Australia made 332 for three in their 50 overs — their highest one-day score.

Australia completed the semifinal victory by dismissing Sri Lanka for 218 in 45.4 overs, and play Pakistan in the final on Friday for a prize of \$30,000.

O'Donnell, who hit a total of six sixes and four fours, beat the previous fastest for a half-century — off 21 balls — which was shared by New Zealand's Lance Cairns, against Australia in the 1982-83

season, and Salim Malik for Pakistan against India in 1987.

O'Donnell's onslaught began after Dean Jones, who scored a superb, unbeaten 117, and Geoff Marsh (68) softened up a moderate Sri Lankan attack by putting on 137 for the second wicket stand.

Jones became the first Australian to score a century at Sharjah, hitting seven fours and a six in his innings of 123 deliveries.

Off-spinner Ranjit Madursinghe was the pick of the Sri Lankan bowlers, conceding only 32 runs from 10 overs.

Peter Taylor, Australia's off-spinner, had the best figures for his side, taking two for 28 in 10 overs to help undermine the middle order with captain Allan Border, whose left-arm spin brought him two for 42.

Asanka Gurusinha did not bat after twisting an ankle while fielding, and was taken to hospital for an X-ray.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA

M. Taylor st. Kuruppu b Madursinghe... 27
G. Marsh c Kuruppu b Ravi Ratnayake... 68
D. Jones not out... 117
S. O'Donnell b Ramanayake... 74
D. Boon not out... 30
Extras (lb-5 lb-6 w-5)... 16
Total (for three wickets, 50 overs) 332
Did not bat: A. Border, S. Waugh, I. Healy, T. Alderman, P. Taylor, C. Rackemann.

Fall of wickets: 1-35 2-178 3-278.
Bowling: Ravi Ratnayake 10-0-55-0 (w-2), Ranjit Madursinghe 10-0-32-1, Ramanayake 10-0-82-1 (w-2), Asoka de Silva 5-0-34-0 (w-1), Gurusinha 5-0-48-0.

SRI LANKA
A. Hula Samarasekera lbw Alderman... 25

Brendon Kuruppu c Marsh b Alderman... 14
Hashan Tillekeratne st Healy b Border... 76
Aravinda de Silva c Marsh b Taylor... 19
Arjuna Ranatunga c Rackemann b Waugh... 26
Ravi Ratnayake run out... 4
Rumesh Ratnayake c Border b Taylor... 8
Asoka de Silva c Healy b Border... 9
Chameera Ramanayake c Waugh b O'Donnell... 19
Ranjit Madursinghe not out... 8
Asanka Gurusinha absent injured... 0
Extras (lb-6 b-1 w-3)... 10
Total (45.4 overs)... 218

Fall of wickets: 1-25 2-43 3-77 4-124 5-135 6-150 7-174 8-206 9-218.

Bowling: Alderman 7-0-35-2, Rackemann 10-0-51-0, Taylor 10-1-28-2, O'Donnell 5-4-19-1, Waugh 7-0-36-1, Border 6-0-42-2.

Australia won by 114 runs and meet Pakistan in the final on Friday.

Colts rout Hubara to retain title

LANKA COLTS retained the Trico Trophy for yet another year by defeating Hubara by a margin of 175 runs earlier this week, thus bringing to an end a highly successful debut season at Ahmadi.

Batting first, the Colts amassed a mammoth 392 for 7 wickets in 40 overs, with the consistent and talented opener Nalaka blasting his way to a scintillating and stylish 156, comprising of 19 fours and 6 sixes in just 24 overs. In the process Nalaka also accumulated 1,000 runs for the season, a feat he could well be proud of.

The Colts' first wicket fell at 89, when the elegant Ramzan was bowled by the Hubara skipper Shipton, for an exciting 48 which contained 9 boundaries. Useful contributions from Hiran, Chris, Senaka, Lal, Roville and Rohan plus an entertaining partnership between Solomonsz and Oliver, the highlight of which was a lofted on drive for 6 by a 'young looking' Oliver, enabled the Colts to set Hubara an imposing target of almost 10 runs per over in this 40 over game.

Chris Haseman with 3 for 48 off 7 overs and Craig Shipton with 2 for 70 off 8 overs were the main wicket-takers for Hubara. However, the bowling honours without any doubt went to young Mark Haseman, who in his debut for Hubara at Ahmadi bowled a tidy line and length of left arm spin to end up as the most economical bowler. Mark's nippy out-fielding too drew applause from a holiday crowd that added a touch of colour to this closing game of the season at Ahmadi.

The Hubara innings of 218 for 4 in 40 overs was built upon by a superb, chanceless, elegant unbeaten 138 by their flamboyant skipper Craig Shipton, who in his last game in Kuwait after many seasons with Hubara



Lanka Colts skipper Roville (left) receives the trophy from Kannanagara.



Shipton (right) and Nalaka (left) receive their trophies from Kannanagara.

displayed his usual wide repertoire of copybook strokes, in an innings that will long be remembered by all those who were fortunate enough to witness it. Good support was also provided by Chris Haseman, Tony Stein, Dave Talbot, Martin Coulson and the young Neil Jacobs, who was also playing his last game in Kuwait for Hubara.

The Trico Trophy was presented to the winning skipper of the day Roville Goonasekera, MD of Trico Kuwait, who also nominated Nalaka and Craig a Men of the Match for their enterprising batting.

With a touch of sadness both teams bade farewell to Craig Shipton and Neil Jacobs & Hubara. Roville Goonasekera & Wilhelm Solomonsz of Lanka Colts who now move on to greener pastures.

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Somerset tame Derbyshire

LONDON, May 2. (Reuters) Derbyshire's John Morris and Peter Bowler each hit hundreds and shared a record-breaking double century stand, only to finish on the losing side to Somerset in a remarkable Benson and Hedges Cup match yesterday.

Somerset snatched a seven-run victory at Taunton after a high-scoring game in the 55 overs cricket competition which is played among four groups initially with the top two from each qualifying for the knock-out stages.

Cup-best scores from makeshift opener John Hardy (109) and Graham Rose (64), and 66 from South African Jimmy Cook, powered Somerset to 310 for three on a superb batting pitch.

Morris, who hammered 123 from 119 balls, and bowler, with 109, both scored personal bests in the competition as they put on 210 in 41 overs for the second wicket — the county's highest stand for any wicket in the cup.

Derbyshire needed 13 from the last over but could manage only

five and ended on 303 for seven, giving a match aggregate of 611 runs to beat the previous best of 601 in which Somerset also shared, with Gloucestershire, in 1982.

Graham Dilley, banned from international cricket for five years for touring South Africa with the English rebels earlier this year, captured four for 48 and fellow paceman Phil Newport took four for 25 to fire Worcestershire to a 27-run victory over Kent at Worcester.

Results

Group A
At Worcester: Worcestershire beat Kent by 27 runs. Worcestershire 207 for eight innings closed (G. Hick 41, M. Eastham 40 for 57), Kent 180 in 48 overs (T. Ward 94, C. Dilley 40 for 48, P. Newport 40 for 25). Worcester 2 points.

At Cardiff: Glamorgan beat Gloucestershire by nine runs. Glamorgan 219 for nine innings closed (R. Butcher 95, M. Alleyne 40 for 42), Gloucestershire 210 for eight innings closed (P. Bainbridge 55, R. Russell 46 not out). Glamorgan 2 points.

Group B
At Marlrow: Sussex beat Minor Counties by two wickets. Minor Counties 273 for two innings closed (M. Roberts 121, N. Folland 78 not out, G. Brown 46), Sussex 274 for five in 51.4 overs (P. Parker 86 not out, P. Moores 41, M. Speight 40). Sussex 2 points.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Wilander doubtful

STOCKHOLM, May 2. (Reuters) Former world number one Mats Wilander, who has been taking a break from the tennis circuit since early March, said today he would probably not play the French Open and was doubtful for Wimbledon.

Socials merge

RECENTLY crowned winners of the Shuwaikh Champions Trophy, Socials, have formally merged with the well-established sports and cultural club YMCA. The merger

proposal was approved and confirmed at the annual general body meeting of the Social Cricket Club. The new-look YMCA side will play their first match in the EPI Summer League (GCL) tournament tomorrow against Trishul Cricket Club.

Antwerp appeal

BRUSSELS, May 2. (Reuters) Antwerp said today they had appealed against a 15-month ban imposed by the European Football Union (UEFA) on midfielder Patrick Schrooten for drug taking.

Baseball games

NEW YORK, May 2. (Reuters) Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday.

American League	National League
Oakland 4 NY Yankees 2	Philadelphia 4 Cincinnati 2
California 8 Baltimore 1	Atlanta 5 NY Mets 2
Boston 8 Seattle 2	Montreal 2 Houston 1
Toronto 4 Cleveland 3	St. Louis 4 San Diego 1
Minnesota 9 Detroit 5	Los Angeles 4 Pittsburgh 1
Chicago WS 5 Texas 1	Chicago Cubs 7 San Francisco 4
Milwaukee 6 Kansas City 4	

Dutch striker

ROTTERDAM, Holland, May 2. (UPI) Dutch striker John van Loen, 25, of First Division Roda JC, is negotiating with Spain's Athletic Bilbao to transfer there next season, Roda's coach Jan Reker said yesterday.

W.German soccer

BONN, May 2. (UPI) After a three-year's absence, West Berlin will have a team in the West German soccer First Division next season, after Hertha BSC Berlin won promotion with a 1-1 draw against Aachen yesterday.

Soviets triumph

BERN, Switzerland, May 2. (AP) The Soviet Union successfully defended its title at the World Hockey Championships today with a 5-0 rout of Czechoslovakia. Valeri Kameniski's two goals led the scoring.

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The Indo-Pakistan joint party which was held in Doha HAWA HAWA ... 90 Live recording of the party in which the following take part: Hussan Jehangir Upapna, Bindiya, Mandakini, Shafiqur Rehman, Derrick, Amin & Karim with a 15-member orchestra Wrestling No. 29/1990

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